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DELGADO ;

OR, THE EVENTFUL FAMILY.

J. NEWCASTLE, PRINTER, DEAN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

DELGADO;

OR, THE

EVENTFUL FAMILY,

AN INTERESTING NARRATIVE,

DETAILING

THE VICISSITUDES OF EACH IN LOVE ADVENTURES,

SHIPWRECK, AND IMPRISONMENTS.

BY WILLIAM REID.

NEWCASTLE :
PRINTED BY J. REWCASTLE, DEAN STREET.
MDCCCXLIII.

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CHAPTER I.

Domingos Barato Delgado was the only son of a wealthy merchant in the city of Lisbon, who died in the thirty-fifth year of his age; his wife departed this life the preceding year, leaving their son under the guardianship of his Uncle, Don Joze Ferreiro da Rocha, a gentleman of great influence at the court of Lisbon, who took considerable pride in anticipating the future advancement of his Nephew. At twelve years of age, he was sent to the University at Coimbra, where he soon acquired the notice of his superiors, and by a close application to his studies, he gained considerable reputation. It was not, however, only in his academical pursuits that he was emulous of distinction, having a pleasing form, a genteel address, and a lively imagination: he was equally celebrated for his accom-

plishments, which rendered his talents peculiarly facinating. He possessed a sympathising heart, and was a never failing friend to the widow and the orphan. To administer comfort to the afflicted and distressed, were objects in which Domingos took peculiar delight. However, by the time he had attained the age of sixteen years, to the surprise of his friends, he precipitately quitted the University and removed to Lisbon, where he entered largely into the gaieties of the town; was a constant frequenter of all places of public diversion, and followed every species of amusement. His dissipated habits carried him so far, as materially to effect his constitution, and oblige him to seek retirement in the suburbs of the interesting and picturesque little town of Cintra, so well known for its salutary influence on convalescents. The invigorating breezes prevalent are remarkably medicinal in consumptive, and other debilitating diseases. From the summit of the stupendous mountains is presented a most splendid view of the city of Lisbon; the beautiful declivities and vallies beneath; the white cottages, seen among the trees and vineyards. The extensive harbour, and shipping, and fishing towns, near the fine beeches all along the coast, present a picture of sublimity and beauty rarely equalled. In this salubrious spot, Domingos had ample scope for reflection, as well as the re-establishment of his health. A great portion of his time was, however, spent in ascending the precipices, rambling the woods and beautiful groves, traversing the beeches and visiting the cots

of the fishermen, with whom he soon became intimately acquainted, and which eventually led to his taking a step the most wild. He hastily united himself in marriage with Senhora Maria Bandeira, daughter of one of the domestics of the Duque de Lafoes.

Though largely endowed with personal attractions, Senhora was certainly deficient in those of birth and fortune. To a person circumstanced as Domingos then was, no measure could be more imprudent, or apparently more ruinous and destructive of his future prospects in life. On learning the news of his marriage, his Uncle became so outrageous that no one durst utter a word in his exculpation. He threatened every one who took the least step which had the smallest tendency towards a reconciliation. He wrote Domingos a letter, couched in the most insulting terms that their rupture would be permanent. On the receipt of this letter Domingos endeavoured to see his Uncle, but was repulsed with contempt; thus driven from the protection of his Uncle, and discarded by his friends, he retired with his bride to his possessions at Obidas, a small city, situate on the borders of the western coast, at the extremity of a small bay, in the province of Estremadura, an ancient and fortified town built by the Moors, on the summit of a rock, whose rugged appearance, as you enter, considerably adds to the general beauty of the view. It contains a castle in ruins: the towers of which yet present the stranger with some master pieces of architecture, and a melancholy me-

morial of its ancient grandeur. The ramparts which enclose the town are extensive; and the watch towers admirably adapted and calculated to defend the city against invasion. It contains many caverns and arches curiously formed, with a beautiful sheet of water extending to the town. Domingos anticipated much domestic enjoyment in this romantic seclusion, from the bustle of the Metropolis, and its dissipated attraction.

It was late in the evening when he and his lady arrived at their new habitation. A deep sense of sorrow and veneration filled the bosom of Domingos, as the carriage drew near the once happy abode of his deceased parents; all was hushed in nature's repose; as they entered the avenue leading to the mansion no sounds struck the ear, save the winds hustling the trees, and the yelping of the watch dog so faithful to his trust. "Oh," said Domingos, "here it was that I first drew the breath of life, the fond abode of all my infant sport: oft in these avenues have I met the smile of parental affection; but, alas! those smiles are gone: the struggles of reluctant nature are over, they sleep in silent death; no longer their voices animate the groves, nor enliven the mansion by cheerful hospitality: all is silent, dreary, and deserted." These reflections plunged Domingos into a profound reverie from which the tender caresses of Maria had alone power to arouse him. As the carriage entered the court they were greeted by the old domestics of his father, whose silvery locks denoted long servitude;

Sucky conducted them to their apartments, while old Antonio unpacked their baggage. "Ah, my dear Maria," said Domingos, looking round the apartment, "how extremely pleasent to find these aged creatures possessed of so much probity and faithfulness; every thing have been made agreeably neat and comfortable for our reception: the old arm chair of my Grandfather is neatly covered and occupies its former place, with all the toys connected with my childhood's amusements, preserved as relics of veneration." "Is it not a little gratifying," said he, "to observe with what eagerness they interest themselves in our welfare? The wheels of our chaise had scarce ceased, before they open to us the door of our carriage, as if eager to shew their promptness to please." "Evidently so, my dear Domingos," said Maria, "extending her arms to embrace him: let us in return merit those services, so faithfully discharged, by an unremitting attention to the various wants and necessities attendant on old age;" whilst the pious ejaculations of her heart implored the adorable Father of heaven and earth to render them also an uninterrupted felicity throughout life. But alas! the innocent heart of Maria, had formed no conception of the dire monster defamation, which had crept from his lurking place, and whispered through every circle of society, that Domingos was a worthless fellow, who had married in express opposition to the wishes of his Uncle, a female of a very indifferent character: and, after squandering immense riches, had been deservedly abandoned by his Uncle.

On the following morning Domingos, and Maria, took a walk to view the fine scenery in the environs of the town; every window was occupied by its inmates in order to satisfy their curiosity. "What a pity," exclaimed some, "that such elegant exteriors, should cover so much deformity of character. "Really," said another, "I am astonished to find so much modesty, and manners so correct, with characters so abominable :" in this manner proceeded the gossiping tattle of the town. Although the malevolent aspersions were greatly weakened by the elegant deportment of Domingos, and Maria; yet none felt disposed to cultivate their acquaintance. Domingos, observed the marked indifference and cold reception of his neighbours, and he learned from the domestics that unfavourable reports were in circulation; which grieved him, not on his own account, but for Maria, whom he loved to adoration. He charged the servants to keep silence, and he endeavoured to conceal from her knowledge the abominable slander, which had spread too far to meet reproof by vindication. He trusted that time alone would erase from the public mind those unworthy reports : he reflected upon the conduct of his Uncle, from whom such calumnies had sprung unto life; these thoughts robbed his features of every trace of repose; his visage became obscured by sadness, which the penetrating eye of Maria soon perceived, and resting her smiling countenance on the bosom of her husband, said, "what affects you my dear Domingos : why this sad counte-

nance? It is only right that I bear a share of your grief: tell me, I conjure you, have I by any imprudences afflicted you." "My amiable, my lovely, Maria," said Domingos, pressing her to his bosom, "you afflict me, my love: No! you are all that is tender, affectionate, and kind; why ask you this question?" "Because your countenance, my love, betrays uneasiness of mind, which is foreign to your accustomed serenity." Domingos, hurt at being thus surprised by Maria, endeavoured to elude the question, "nothing," replied he smiling. "Nay, my love," said Maria, "you conceal from me," bursting into tears; "Conceal," exclaimed Domingos, placing his face upon her palpitating heart, "God forbid I should conceal, or give one moments grief to the affectionate heart of my amiable Maria." "O God," added he, "refuse me every thing but the power to render this adored being happy; whose amiable innocence and beauty is without a blemish; the pure emblem of nature in the first creation of the world: to conceal from thee, my celestial Maria, no, I swear from my soul to withhold nothing thou mayest require of me; I am a little uneasy on account of the usage of my Uncle: and I am afraid my heart has yet much pain to suffer." "Are we not," said Maria, throwing her arms round his neck, "the spoiled children of nature, and of love;" "I have no doubt he will occasion you much embarrasment and afflict your heart, but it shall be soothed by the heart of your Maria: were we not happy, my dear Domingos, in the humble cot on the

beach, under the cliff, illuminated by the moon, we sang to the rolling wave, whose silvery sprays played wistfully round, to receive our plighted troth ; oh yes, Domingos, and here our seclusion from the giddy Metropolis, shall be sweetened by mutual harmony and affection : our tranquillity and our love are enjoyments the ill-disposed never can deprive us of : What then can he do ?" "He will repel my heart"—"You will find refuge in the heart of your Maria : she will sympathise and soothe your heart under every affliction. "But, what hurts me most of all, he will circulate evil report, and shew hate towards you Maria." "Be not uneasy on that account, Domingos, I shall love him though he do hate me,"—"And, if he do, I shall for ever cease to love him." "No, my dear, Domingos, that must not be, he will hate me the more : you must bear with his passions ; he will be obliged to love me in spite of himself,—no body has yet hated me, and my heart ventures to hope, because it can love and pardon, that the resentment of your Uncle may be softened by forbearance. Failings have their prolific seeds in our nature ; resentment and impatience do but hasten them to maturity, and foster their growth. Forbearance will check their rapid increase. Let prudence be our guide, my dear Domingos, and our guard on every occasion. Connected with the interesting concerns of domestic felicity, desertion of friends is no unusual circumstance, but increased endearment at home will greatly soften asperities and evils abroad." Reclining her cheek on that of Domingos, while with

her eyes, which spoke her sorrow in their tears, she added, " various are the calamities of human life, and many things conspire to ruin mankind ; but He that loves us infinitely, and to save us is of an infinite ability, will not leave us to sink in misery ; let us confide in the adorable Father of heaven and earth, who is able to stifle the pestilential breath of censure, frustrate the designs of our enemies, and render our journey through life happy amidst the endearments of our children ;" while a crimson hue covered her face as she communicated to him the prospect of her soon becoming a mother. Domingos, folded her in his arms, and said, with the most respectful regard, " How can I be unhappy, since you, my dear, my angelic Maria, are mine ? Am I not blessed with all that the heart of man can desire in a virtuous and affectionate wife ? What asperities can discompose my felicity, with such flattering prospects of unbounded affection, and tender solicitude for my happiness ; united, as I am, with such an assemblage of charms and perfections, can it be possible for me to be unhappy ; were I even in the midst of a solitary desert, while accompanied by the smiles and caresses of my dear Maria ? No, we are happy to live in this tranquil retreat, where we can wholly devote ourselves to the fulfilment of our parental duties. Here we can vegetate in happy obscurity, free from the vanities of the world, devoting our time to the mental improvement of ourselves, and the delightful task of superintending the morals of our children. How difficult, my dear, Maria, would it be

to perform this essential duty amidst the bustle and pageantry of Lisbon." These considerations were of paramount importance contrasted with all other objects, and the accustomed harmony reigned in the mansion of Domingos.

The usual time having elapsed, Maria gave birth to a daughter; she had called about her the faithful Sucky, and an experienced matron of the town, and suffering for some time in silence at length became a mother, an event which gave Domingos the most supreme delight. Overwhelmed with transports of joy, he flew to the chamber of his wife, and blessed heaven for her safety. "God is full of goodness," said Sucky, placing the child in the arms of Domingos, who, folding it to his heart, kissed it, and returned it to its mother. Sucky, during the confinement of Maria, waited upon her with the most maternal care. The priest, from the church at the foot of the rock, being in attendance, the young stranger received the name of Clarissa; and Maria's health being restored, she gained fresh charms in the eyes of her enraptured husband, as she nurtured the first pledge of their love at her maternal bosom; the infantile smiles of Clarissa banished every thought of the past, and each gazed on her features with all the delight of parental fondness. "I think she favours you Maria," said Domingos, smiling one day; "nay, Domingos," said she raising her beautiful black eyes to his, "methinks she resembles her father, in which case she will be the

dearer to me :" " you flatter me," exclaimed he clasping her waist with his arm. " Not so Domingos, you know otherwise ; that I love you, I have given proof beyond all denial, and the eldest born of my hopes bearing thy resemblance must be doubly precious to my heart." " Beloved of my soul," said Domingos, embracing her, " thou art superior to all women, with a heart as gentle as that of the dove ; and surely there is not a man in this country, nor, I believe, in any other, so happy, as myself, for I have the best wife in the world." Elated with these ideas, his eyes sparkled with admiration, while his heart whispered the feelings of his soul, in praises to God for the gift, in whose society all his affections were centered.

Maria, celebrated for her domestic attainments, was very judicious in the management of all those little concerns which have a tendency to make home happy : a cheerful smile and a plentiful board, awaited the return of Domingos from the vineyard, or the culture of his lands ; on the improvement of which he devoted a great portion of his time. These pursuits frequently occasioned him to visit the neighbouring hamlets : returning one morning early from St. Martina, a small town lying upon the sea coast, at the mouth of a small lake, inhabited by fishermen, and sheltered from the wintry storms by high and sea-beat rocks, whose barren tops form the haunts of the seagull, and birds of the forest, which skirt the lake, and cover the inland with trees for many leagues ; intersected by paths

so seldom frequented and intricate, that it required the utmost skill of the traveller to make his way. In one of these paths rode Domingos, musing on the beauties of nature, when his attention was suddenly arrested by something deposited at the foot of a large cork tree. Curiosity led him to the spot, and dismounting his horse, unfolded a mantelet, when, to his infinite surprise, he discovered a child sleeping in tranquillity. "Gracious powers," said Domingos, looking around for its parent, "what mishap hath brought thee here, in the midst of this dreary wood, my little innocent:" the sound of his voice awoke the slumbers of the child, and opening its eyes gazed on him and smiled: but immediately, as if conscious of its forlorn situation, drew its little mouth into a very pitiful position and wept. "Poor little babe," said Domingos, "has some vile assassin deprived thee of thy parent, and left thee here to parish, or become a prey to the ravenous wolves of the forest. Hush my little stranger thou shalt not perish; accursed be the hands that shed thy parents blood, and robbed thee of maternal care." Taking up the child in his arms, and remounting his horse proceeded on his way home, lost in a labrynth of conjectures he arrived at the mansion, and was met at the entrance by Maria. "Welcome, welcome," Domingos, said she, smiling, "I thought thee long: but what hast thou there so carefully folded to thy bosom: a present I bring to thee, my life," unfolding the mantelet—"Good God," exclaimed she, transfixed

with astonishment, her eyes riveted on the child—"Nay, woman, cease thy wonder, and hold out thy arms and receive my charge." "What a child, prithee, Domingos, explain this jest." "The holy virgin protect us," exclaimed Sucky, "and a boy too as true as life." "Thou art more minute in thy examination, Sucky, than I," said Domingos, "for I never had discovered the distinction;" and he immediately related the circumstance of finding the child in the wood. "Good heaven," exclaimed Maria, "is it possible: what villainy can have brought the babe there?" "Nay, I know not," said Domingos," "unless its poor unfortunate parent, passing the forest, hath fallen among robbers, and had no help at hand, to preserve her from rapine and murder." "How horrid, and yet how mysterious," exclaimed Maria, shuddering; "haste Sucky, and fetch some food for the little foundling, it needs nourishment, poor little dear: how cold, and yet it smiles. Come then, my poor boy," said she, taking him to her bosom, "thou shalt not want a mother." "A mother," repeated Sucky, "my lady don't intend to keep the child." "Certainly, Sucky, and I will endeavour to make up the loss it has sustained." "Heaven forfend that my lady should foster the child of an harlot; who may have deposited the fruit of her iniquity in the wood, designedly to impose on some honest traveller; I pray, my lady, send it to the king's institution for destitute children." "Perish the thought," replied Maria, pressing the child to her bosom, "unfortunate babe, thou smilest,

although the hard hearted Sucky wishes to reject thee; but we, Domingos and I, will love thee : and never shalt thou learn the want of parents ; does not the divine records teach pity for thee—yes, dear little one, and never shalt my heart deny thee." " Sucky, who in reality, was not destitute of sensibility, felt herself abashed, kissed the child, and taking it into her arms pressed it to her bosom, and began to examine its vest." "The virgin and holy saints direct us," exclaime she, " what is this in the bosom of the child, a gold chain and locket." "What," cried Maria, " snatching the chain, and examining them." " These," said she, " bespeak the child of parents above the common rank." "But, my lady," said Sucky, "don't you think it strange that the robbers should have left this valuable gold chain behind them." "Aye, 'tis strange," replied Maria, "a mystery hangs over the whole, which is not in thy power nor mine to develope; we must procure a nurse for the unfortunate child, and leave the rest to God to unravel, who knoweth the secrets of all hearts." Domingos instituted the most diligent inquiry, respecting the child's parents, but without succes ; and at the suggestion of Maria named him Henrique de Pino.

During the remainder of the year peace reigned in the mansion of Domingos, and domestic happiness every day showered upon them new blessings ; while all the household regarded him as a father, and his wife as the life spring of all their enjoyments. With

open hands they administered to the wants of the poor, whose hearts gladdened by their bounty, sung through the town praises and blessings on their benefactors; which completely annihilated the evil reports abroad, and enkindled feelings of respect and admiration, which induced Don Joze Duarte da Cunha, of Caldas, to pay them a visit; and was so much pleased with their graceful affability, that he introduced his lady: she was a mild creature, whose very countenance indicated goodness of heart, and who merited to be the intimate friend of Maria. The reciprocal confidence of the two families progressively increased, and their days glided on in the most happy tranquillity. The two husbands spoke their sentiments with freedom, and regularly communicated to each other what they conceived worthy of attention; thus their agriculture pursuits were greatly facilitated by the cordial friendship which subsisted between the two families. Domingos had henceforth nothing more to desire, equally fortunate in friendship as in love, his heart experienced the most uninterrupted repose; while Maria pleased with the amiable lady of Don Joze, sought every opportunity to enjoy her society: whose lively sallies beguiled the evening hour, and formed one of the greatest charms in her conversation. Each alive to humanity, they liberally shared their stores with the sick, and personally went among them, to see the most proper means used to extirpate their maladies: fearless of danger, they pursued this benevolent object, with the most strenuous exertions,

putting into force every means which had a tendency to alleviate the sufferings of the afflicted.

While pursuing their usual visits, one morning they were accosted by a poor swineherd, whose tears ran copiously down his cheeks, as he entreated them to visit his afflicted parent. He conducted them to a small cottage at the out skirts of the town ; as they approached the bed, the good woman raised her feeble voice with apparent difficulty, "Oh Jerronymo, my dear son, how couldst thou leave me at this hour." Tears fell from the eyes of Maria, as she took the parched hand of the patient sufferer, and said "You seem very ill, my good mother," Maria's accents were so extremely gentle, that it roused her attention, who looking at her, said, "I believe you are the kind lady of whom my son speaks so much about : who filleth the hungry, clotheth the naked, and cheereth the marcid countenance of the cottage hearth ; I thank God, that he has not taken me before I saw you. Oh ! Madam, the terrible moment has arrived, my trembling and restless soul is on the borders of an unknown world, ere long this trembling heart will cease to beat." Her strength being exhausted, Maria, exhorted her to compose her feelings. "Good mother," said she, "the all powerful God will be your defence : rely entirely on his mercy, and he will support you ; even now, though the vale of death opens before you, he will comfort and be near you." "Ah, Madam, his will be done and not mine. I submit without

murmuring, hoping our Lord and Saviour, and the holy virgin, will intercede for me." "Confide in the clemency of the most holy Father, my good mother, he is good and merciful; and when he calls us to himself, He, with infinite goodness, will pardon us." "Oh, Madam, why should I doubt his mercy? If I regret life, it is only on account of my poor son, who will be left friendless; he hath done all that humanity and affection can do to a parent: day after day hath he pined in want, in order to apply his little money to procure me nourishment; but, alas! his means are spent—with anguish he has watched my bed, day and night with unwearied assiduity, until this morning he flew from my chamber in wild agitation." "Such a son doeth honour to a parent, and will have his reward," replied Maria, "is he without employ?" "O yes, madam, ever since the death of the good farmer Manoel de Fegueired, he has not been able to procure employment." "I will take care my good mother," said Maria, "that he has employ,—my husband will employ him in our vineyards, and be assured he shall not want for anything while I have it to bestow." Holding out her hand as a testimony of her agreement; the dying woman affected by such unparalleled benevolence, faintly articulated, "Oh! excellent heart, I trust to your promise and am happy;" commending her soul to God, expired in a few minutes after."

On their return to the mansion, the countenance of Maria, and her amiable companion, was grave and

thoughtful, but soon regained their usual vivacity, as they removed from the melancholy spectacle. "What a useful lesson to the general order," said Maria, "is this good and honest creature, who has passed her life in continual labour, and without having enjoyed her existence, terminated it in misery?" "Yes," replied Lucretia, "what trials some are called to endure: could the voluptuous eye witness this melancholy scene, methinks it would arrest his sensual appetite, and lead him to reflect how sympathy and mutual support become matter of imperious duty." Here there conversation was interrupted by the approach of Don Joze, your very humble servant ladies. "By all the saints in heaven, but you are as light of foot as the hare of the forest: both my friend, Captain Miranda, and I, are out of breath in chasing you." "We are extremely sorry," replied Maria, "to have given you so much trouble, had we known of your approach, we certainly would have slackened our pace: but why seek you us?" "To beg the pleasure of your company to Caldas; hear ye not the rockets rending the air, as semblances of rejoicings. It is the annual visit of the famous Santa N. R. Azrre, whose celestial powers are so celebrious, that a large assemblage of devotees annually attend her sacred person." "Gracious heaven," cried Maria, as they entered the town, "what a large concourse of persons: how splendidly the houses and windows are decorated with tapestry." "And the balconies," observed Captain Miranda, "filled with angelic beauty, whose head dresses seem

to exhibit the plummage of the ostrich and trophic bird ; how the alluring creatures emulate to outvie each other." "Well, really," replied Lucretia, "I never heard Captain Miranda, pass such elegant eulogiums on the ladies before : they appear to inspire and interest him." " Who could behold such an assemblage of charms," replied he, " without being inspired with sentiments of respect and admiration ; nay more, when I am under the shade of their looks, I feel as if I was out of the reach of vice," making a low bow as he repeated the last sentence." " What artful chicanery," cried Don Joze, laughing, " Miranda, would impress you with the idea of his sincerity." " Men are debased," said Maria, " when they take advantage, and make use af such weapons against the weaker sex ; they ought to be sincere, when there is no occasion to make use of artifice, yet many men employ it to deceive ; but I scarcely can believe Captain Miranda capable of such ungenerous feelings towards that facinating part of the world." " I positively assure you Madam," replied Captain Miranda, " that I have always held the ladies in the highest estimation." " Nay veneration, man," exclaimed Don Joze, " or thou wilt be a sorry gallant, to prostrate thyself at the feet of some fair mistress." " But, prithee, Miranda, let me find your pulse," rallying him, " you look so demure that I fear you will die of a mortal wound inflicted on thy heart, by the penetrating eyeshots of these fair conquerors," but here comes the procession : " How splendidly her saintship is attired," exclaimed Lu-

cretia. "And what an elegantly gilt carriage," cried Maria, "drawn by the royal mules, and attended by his majesty's servants in the royal livery; how sweet the music which precede the procession; but what are these poor objects, following so close behind the carriage barefoot, and beating so unmercifully on their bosoms, with such solemn seriousness?" "These," said Don Joze, "are poor wretches, who have been guilty of some horrid sin, they are expiating their crimes, and soliciting the intercedence of the holy saint"—"Which she will do for a good fat goose," replied Captain Miranda, "to fill the pious stomachs of these big-bellied friars, who form so conspicious a part of her saintship's train, and add to the dazzling spectacle of superstitions ignorance," shrugging up his shoulders. "O fie," exclaimed Maria, "what impious expressions." "Oh," said Don Joze, "the Captain has been so long associated with the English, that he has imbibed their heretical principles." "Rather say principles of true sapience," replied the Captain, "which has taught me the folly of prostrating myself before an inanimate bit of wood, transformed by the art of man into the resemblance of a human face; which this superstitious multitude fall down and worship, as possessing all the powers of divinity. "God defend us," exclaimed Maria, crossing herself, "what will become of us; we shall bring upon us the grevious displeasure of the blessed saint, who so miraculously preserved the life of the man and horse, who fell over the precipice into the sea, near Santa N. R.

Azrre." "True," replied Don Joze, "and rescued a ship's crew, from perishing in the deep, by her divine power: led them through the raging water safe to land;" "And brought the woodman's family" said Lucretia, "safe through the flames during the conflagration of the forest." "O yes," replied Don Joze, "the divine powers of the holy saint, are beyond the possibility of a doubt; and, therefore, prithee, Miranda, cease thy criticises, on so divine a representative of the great governor of the universe, ere thou be plunged into the gulf of perdition, as a reward for thy English infidel principles." "But come, the evening draws on a pace, let us retire."

On arriving at the mansion, they found Domingos seated with Clarissa, on one knee, and Henrique on the other, singing one of his most favourite airs to amuse them. "By my faith, Domingos, but thou art an expert nurse," said Don Joze, "thou handles the little ones, as nimbly as the most professed nurse in Obidas." "It is the most delightful task connected with conjugal happiness," replied Domingos, "and a most important one." "It is the chief duty of parents, to watch the dawn of reason, and catch the favourable moment to imprint some good impressions, with a view to form the sweet temper, the mild manners, the enlarged understanding, the pious wish, the worthy citizen, the loyal subject, and the noble patriot." "And a faithful husband," said Captain Miranda gravely. "As it respects that," replied Maria, "I have been the

most fortunate woman in the world." "And I should be extremely sorry," replied captain Miranda, "to lessen the high opinion you entertain of Domingos' virtues; but my eyes deceive me greatly if this youth Henrique is not a Delgado." Maria surprised and confused at the Captain's remark, cast her eyes first on Domingos, then on the Captain, at last, she said, "And do you suspect Domingos to be his father?" "You hear, my dear," said Domingos laughing, "that the Captain, very discerningly, has discovered a father for the poor boy in me; and I am very willing to bear that name, if it please God, in his divine wisdom, to intrust me with the important duty; but on what grounds the Captain places his opinion, I cannot divine." "The best of all grounds, resemblance," replied Captain Miranda, "his features bespeak his affinity." "Faith there is some truth in the Captain's remark," said Don Joze, "a more striking resemblance to the Delgadoes, I never beheld." "Then I will suffer myself," replied Domingos, "to be considered as the father of the poor child of providence. Welcome, thrice welcome, to my arms poor boy—pressing him to his bosom, I will be thy parent, and thou shalt be indeed my child; my heart is open to receive thee with all the censure of an unkind world: praise be to God for his wonderful doings towards the children of men—every thing that has befallen thee is by his directions; and, I trust, that I shall be his instrument to do justice, and protect thee."

Maria, lost in endless conjectures, retired to rest,

but not to sleep, a thousand different ideas obtruded and confused her thoughts. The remark, of the Captain, respecting Henrique, perplexed her, and created sensations she had never before experienced. "Can it be possible, that I have been deceived in Domingos' love," said she, wiping away the tear that rolled in her eye; "were all his professions of regard mere artifice : and I the dupe of his vices. Oh ! heavens, my heart revolts at such an accusation. Oh ! no, it cannot be ; the kind and humane Domingos cannot be capable of such wickedness : yet the time and circumstances of the discovery of Henrique, and the striking resemblance, is certainly mysterious ; but why should Domingos be influenced by interested motives to withhold the knowledge of it from me." "Perish the thought," said she, "I will not reproach him with such want of delicacy of feeling and sensibility, which gently forces a friend to tell what he wishes to disclose. Domingos has always been kind and affectionate ; and it is humanity that induces him to adopt, and suffer himself to be reputed the father of the child ; and wherefore should I refuse to love him : was it because he is a poor destitute child—contemptible wretch, if this thought glided secretely into my heart, to prevent me; but no, I will unite with Domingos, in my best efforts to fulfil the other important duty of mother to the poor boy."

Anxious to perform aright their parental duties, it was long before Domingos and Maria could agree as

to the best mode of instructing their children. Maria insisted upon the propriety of a systematic mode of education ; while Domingos, on the contray, rather approved of one which was more desultory. The former was of opinion that children ought to be furnished with clear and distinct ideas of things ; Domingos had nothing to object to this, in as far as they were susceptible of receiving them. But as such a complete conception, added he, is altogether incompatible with their capacities, general truths must be presented to their minds : what we see becomes clear and indelibly imprinted on our minds, with practical knowledge, to render them good, worthy, and useful members of society ; who may labour for the public weal, and despise misfortunes ; having their minds endued with a firm faith in an hereafter, in an eternity : in fine, to render them capable to meet death with serenity, because they look forward to a better world. In order to acquire such a frame of mind, courage, strength, and faith are necessary. They must first of all learn to obey, esteem their superiors in years, and afterwards become men themselves ; that is to say—to accomplish all that, we must first enlighten their understandings. Maria giving way to the opinion of Domingos, he undertook the important duty to instruct them. The two children received their lessons either under the shade of the vine, or in an apartment within doors. He taught them to read and to perform those little works suitable to their years. Henrique was taught to cultivate small portions of the garden, and dress the

vines of the vineyard; while Maria taught Clarissa to perform the various duties of the house. It was thus that the children were occupied for several years; and in this way they had acquired, not only strength and beauty; but, also, with much pleasure to themselves, a greater store of ideas than is usual at their years.

One morning in the season, when nature had clothed herself in all her beauties; the trees decked with blossoms, and the birds filling every grove with melody, Henrique and Clarissa proceeded to the avenue, to water the tender flowers which were parched by the beams of the sun; when they perceived, slowly winding the avenue, a mendicant monk, with his rosary in his hand, and on his shoulder hung a wallet. "Good morrow, my son and daughter," said the holy monk, "the blessings of Saint Sebastiao, rest upon you, my children. "Ah!" continued the holy father Manoel, 'tis charming to rove abroad at this sweet hour of prime; to enjoy the calm of nature; to tread the dewy lawns; and taste the unrifled freshness of the air: and you, my children, are assisting nature, by pouring the refreshing drops on the tender and sickly plants of the earth; may that beneficent being, who maketh the out-goings of the morning and evening to rejoice, also nourish and strengthen your souls with the water of eternal life." "Thank you, holy father" replied Clarissa, "for your kind benediction and prayer for our eternal happiness. Accept of this small piece of money,; 'tis all I have, but you are right welcome

to it." "And here," cried Henrique, emptying his pocket into the lap of the holy monk, "The God of heaven increase your store," said the monk, securing their bounty in his wallet, "and open your hearts to give liberally to the poor brethren of the monastry; whose prayers unceasingly will ascend to our blessed saint, in order to secure your peace, preservation, and happiness on earth, and a favourable reception with the Most High, when ere you may take your exit from this earthly habitation, unto the celestial city above; for all, observe my dear children, through the effect of sin, become the image of satan; your father and mother are equally sinners before God." "That is not true," cried Henrique, with vivacity, "and I know not how you can speak thus of my good mother and father, whose virtues are unimpeachable. I don't believe one word of it," added he, with anger, and seizing by the hand Clarissa, was about to depart. When the monk, finding the error he had unwillingly fallen into, began to explain the meaning of his observation, by stating, "that the human family were wholly corrupted by the fall of Adam, and that regeneration is absolutely necessary to qualify every man, woman, and child, to do any thing really good and acceptable to God; and, therefore, you see my dear children, the allusion had no immediate direction to your parents alone, but unto the general character of man. The immaculate virtues of your father and mother, is the theme of praise throughout the whole district of Obidas; the widow, the orphan, and the afflicted, all par-

take of their liberality. Cheered, my children, by such charitable exercises, I, a poor brother of the monastery, have ventured to approach the mansion of your benevolent parents." "Come then, holy monk," said Clarissa, "we, my brother Henrique and I, will conduct you to my mother.

They entered the mansion leading the monk into the presence of Maria, who rose respectfully to receive him. "Be seated, holy father," said she, "may be you are weary with pacing the forest; your sandals betoken much travelling." "True, my good lady," said the monk, "when I put on the habit of the order of our blessed saint Sebastiao, I also inured all his sufferings and deprivations. Our order is humble, modest, and meek; we have no gaudy appendages or luxurious living; but as Christ suffered deprivations on earth, so must we suffer with him, that we may reign with him, and be glorified. The grace we are enabled to exercise under our distress, will beam as an additional jewel to enrich our immortal crown. In accordance with the precept of our holy saint, we abstain from all earthly enjoyments, confining ourselves within the walls of the monastery; while our cloisters resound with supplications, for the well being of our fellow creatures; until our hearts fainting with hunger, we are necessitated to traverse the rugged forest, and pass the mountain steep, amid the burning sun, and under the light of the moon, in order to solicit food to satisfy the cravings of nature, wherever a christian

door opens to receive our weary limbs." "Poor monk," replied Maria, "your labours are more for inward purity, than for outward felicity." "Ah my good lady," said the monk, "the man that is a labouring bee for earthly happiness, will be but an idle drone for heavenly felicity; for, as the wretched creatures the worldlings, they are diligent about what is temporal, but negligent about what is spiritual; they are careful about fading vanities, but slothful about durable excellencies; they feast their bodies, while we the brethren of the monastery, pray for their starving souls." "What excellent piety and christian love," replied Maria, as she cast her eyes upon the sanctimonious visage of the monk, "and how much the generality of mankind are indebted to the holy brethren of the monastery; who claim our warmest esteem and affection, for their unwearied labours, and pious influence with the blessed saint, for our eternal welfare." "But," continued she, "you needs must be faint, poor monk, come, and partake of our hospitality; our board is plain but good, and will cheer your drooping heart." So saying, she led him to another apartment, where a table was covered with cold meats, and a flagon of wine. "Sit down, holy monk," said she, "and refresh yourself, and I will give directions to the servants, to prepare an apartment for your use, as you must henceforward make this mansion your abode, whenever your holy vocation leads you to Obidas." "My blessing rest upon you, good lady," said the monk, "his countenance brightening as he be-

held the generous wine sparkle in the flagon, and folding his hands, said to himself, in ecstacy, "Raise your hollow sounds ye bitterns, inhabitants of the mouldering spires on the rock; and sing ye larks of the dawn, your songs of praise unto the genius of the monk of the deserted convent of Amixuiera."

The pious demeanour of the monk won the confidence of Maria, and she hastened to the vineyard to acquaint Domingos, with her desire to entertain him as a guest at the mansion. Domingos acquiesced in her request, and thought it would be an advantageous opportunity, the occasional visits of the monk, in order to facilitate the religious instruction of their children. Accordingly the monk became an important guest at the mansion; and Domingos' happiness every day augmented, in proportion as the talents and virtues of the children became unfolded. The most tender friendship united each of them, and confirmed their happiness. Henrique, who was universally believed to be the son of Domingos, had become an interesting young man; and Clarissa, as fair as the summer's morn, his constant companion, sharing equally his pleasures, whenever he rambled abroad; whilst he seemed to possess her confidence in the highest degree.

One day as they sat on the brow of the cliff, viewing the smooth surface of the sea, tinged with a silvery hue by the reflecting rays of the sun; the murmur-

ing wave rolling gently on the beach. Clarissa, contemplating the beautiful and sublime effect of the enlightening orb of day, exclaimed. "How magnificent are the works of God displayed in these great waters; 'tis wonderous to our eye, with what minute order the Omnipotent hand turneth the axis of the universe; the stars hide themselves in the sky; the moon pale sinks in the western wave; the ocean shrinks and grows again; while every thing seemeth to enjoy its existence in the fulness of its nature. Observe the parental care of yonder seagulls teaching their young to dive; how proud the parent birds appear to be with the adventures of their progeny." As she turned her eyes towards Henrique, whose countenance betrayed an unusual sadness; after looking at him a moment, in silence, she said. "Dear Henrique, why art thou so grave and thoughtful? Prithee tell me from what cause proceeds this depression of spirits, and apparent melancholy? Art thou ill?" "No, my dear sister, I was thinking how happy I should be if I knew to whom I owed my existence." Clarissa sighed, and, covering her face in her vest, burst into tears. "So thou art tired of me, and my parents, and wish to find a new sister, and father, and mother." "Tired of thee, Clarissa," exclaimed Henrique, snatching her to his bosom, and gazing on her with tenderness; while the big tear rolled in his eye, he said, "how canst thou, my dear sister, reproach me with such want of feeling towards thee, and my generous benefactors? Thy father and mother, who are all that is great and good. To whom

I owe every obligation ; and, permit me to hope they honour me with their good opinion, which I prize among the best gifts of heaven. And art thou not infinitely dear to me, sweet Clarissa," raising her hand to his lips ; but, recollecting his situation, he checked himself immediately ; retired back, sighed deeply, and winding the cliff, they hastily returned towards the mansion.

The monk who had by chance rambled among the rocks, perceived Henrique and Clarissa; and stealing softly behind the cliff, silently observed them. With the most eager attention he stretched forward his head, in order to understand the nature of their conversation; but was only enabled, now and again, to catch a few broken sentences, which augmented his chagrin ; and he retired pondering over the most hellish inventions, in order to frustrate the happiness of Henrique, whom he hated from their first interview in the avenue. He pursued his way to the vineyard, and as he passed along the covered alley, which led to the mansion, he saluted Jerronymo and Ioao, the two labourers employed among the vines, in a voice so extremely austere, that it produced an electrical effect on the nerves of Jerronymo ; who, let go the vine, stood aghast, pale and agitated, as if he had heard the voice of a spectre. Ioao, his fellow labourer, rising from the pine, beheld Jerronymo pale as death, a cold perspiration on his forehead, and trembling like a criminal. " How now," cried he, in evident alarm at the perturbated state of

his features; crossing himself, he repeated the paternoster, and trembling caught his hand. "Blessed virgin," said he, "what does this mean?" endeavouring to arouse him. "The voice! the voice!" cried Jerronymo, in wild agitation, "What voice?" hastily enquired Ioao. "I have heard no voice, save that of the holy monk; and surely thou art not alarmed at the voice of the pious father?" "'Tis the voice, the voice," repeated Jerronymo, looking around him with anxiety. "God defend us," said Ioao, his fears greatly increased, "thou art surely mad, or heard the voice of some unhappy spirit that torments thy soul." "Nay, neither." replied Jerronymo, recovering himself, "'tis only stupor, sicklied over with the pale cast of thought." "Then, I prithee," replied Ioao, "keep thy stupor to amuse thyself with at home. Marry I like none of thy performances, nor foul imaginations; may be there is something in thy soul, over which these freaks sit on brood; if so, go to the holy monk, man, and ease thy conscience by confession." "My conscience," replied Jerronymo, "is free from guilt; neither have I committed any thing of which I have cause to fear; nevertheless, God forgive me, my heart always trembles at the sound of the holy monk's voice; it puts me in remembrance of that terrible night on the forest, when I served the good farmer Manoel de Fegueired." "Aye, I remember," said Ioao, "thou wast swineherd to that good man." "True," replied Jerronymo; "and he had as fine a herd of swine as ever fed on the forest acorns." "Yes," replied Ioao, "and as valiant a swineherd as

swooned at the cry of the owl." "But, what of that dreadful night, and what has the holy monk to do with thy whimsical notions; perhaps, thou fancied in thy midnight watch, some monstrous phenomena, turning the sound of the wind into a thousand devil's voices, or some huge phantom; and so learnt thee to perform those freaks, thou hast just given a specimen." "Nay," replied Jerronymo, "thou art light on the matter, Ioao, but it was a dreadful night, and will ever be remembered by me with much reflection." "Reflection truly," replied Ioao, "why thou hast already told me me of the purity of thy conscience." "Ah!" rereplied Jerronymo, "as pure as the fountain's spring, from any dark and hidden crime—But." "But what?" hastily enquired Ioao, his curiosity greatly increased. "Tell me, I prithee, what thou hast seen,—ghost or devil?" "I know not," replied Jerronymo, "whether it was the devil or not; but this I know, it was the devil's heart." "All the saints in heaven protects us," cried Ioao, "what dost thou mean, be explicit?" "Ah!" replied Jerronymo, "'twas only the devil's heart, callous by infernal pursuits, that could exercise such voracious brutality; but, 'tis past, and I am silent, so let us to work again.' "Nay, must I entreat thee," said Ioao, "to proceed with thy story.' "I wish not even to think of it," replied Jerronymo, "but since thou art so importunate, I will tell thee; but, I must previously require thy word of honour, that, in no case whatever, wilt thou mention my name respecting what I shall communicate, for reasons

thou wilt hereafter find." "Aye, marry," replied Ioao "I give my word to conceal all that thou communicates, therefore, proceed." "But soft," said Jerronymo, "look around that no one is within hearing, and let us couch awhile. "Thou remembers," continued Jerronymo, "the dreadful hurricane, that spread devastation in the forest, and dismantled so many dwellings in the city," "Ah! right well, I remember," said Ioao, "I had nearly lost my life through it, while journeying to the vineyards; its furious rage drew me from my feet, as if I had been a spider's web, and carrying me before it for some distance, at length, plunged me like a true bibacious, neck and heels into my master's wine vat. But he that sends a fool of an errand, ought to follow him. So in comes my master by the same blast, with a tremendous souse upon my already extended body with the fermenting liquor; and, Lord bless thee, but for the timely aid of the Newfoundland dog, who dragged us out by the heels, we had quickly passed this transitory life, unto the bosom of Bacchus, laden with the purple fluid: but proceed with thy narrative."

"On the following morning the heavens were serene, and nature had resumed her wonted beauties, save delapidated dwellings in the city, and the venerable cork trees laid prostrate in the forest. I became sensibly struck with the mighty power of God; and wrapped in deep meditation, proceeded with the herd under the southern mountains. Every step displayed

the trembling fibres of nature, and filled my heart with solemn awe, and veneration to that almighty governor, who, in the twinkling of an eye : nay, at the breath of whose nostrils, these stately trees, but yesterday erect and in vigorous growth, bow down their towering heads in trembling obedience to the ground. Toward eventide the herd approached the northern cliffs, where the cork trees had shed their acorns more plentifully, and finding sufficient food they soon began to lay down for the night. I took my mantle, and, wrapping it around me, retired with my faithful dog, under the shade of a tree, whose spreading bows afforded security from the cold north wind. Between the openings of the trees appeared the crumbling towers of the old monastery ; once a magnificient pile, but now a magnificient ruin. The moss and ivy creeping over it, seemed as if anxious to save it from the spoiling hand of time ; while the high trees, that clustered around, only here and there permitted the light to visit it. Strange tales were told about that dreary ruin ; dreadful noises had been heard ; and frightful sights seen. Report says, that guilty friars had laid their bones there, and their spirits haunt the monastery, Lord, rest their souls! I am all over in a swither, and can verify it by ocular demonstration. Just as the castle clock of Obidas struck twelve, the starry canopy enveloped by a mass of black clouds, which spread a dismal darkness over the forest. My eyes were fixed in the direction of the monastery, when I beheld a light gradually ascend the western tower, until it reached

the upper apartment, when it became extinct; and all was again dreary darkness. The wind rose in sudden gusts, and then moaned slowly on in the distance. The trees shook, and the howling of the wolf resounded from the cliffs above; when, again, a glimmering light appeared, and as it slowly descended the tower, I saw, as it were, the shade of a figure bearing the taper; when, Lord, save us, on its reaching the centre aperture, I saw, as sure as thou art alive, Ioao, the shaved crown of a friar, clad in the garb of his order; the light instantly disappeared, and all was again dark and silent as the grave. I listened attentively while my knees shook violently together, and breathing a trembling prayer to heaven, waited the issue of the event. In a few minutes the sound of footsteps rose upon my ear, which infused terror into my heart; and charging my dog to be silent, lest it might be robbers, I couched behind a tree, stretching my ears attentively, under an idea that it might only be the wind; but the sound approached too rapidly and regularly, to cherish any longer that hope. I was soon convinced that it was the steps of men, in a direction opposite to where I was hid. The moon was just peeping over the tops of the Alcobaca mountains, and spread a faint glimmering light through the openings of the trees, which enabled me to discern several men approaching by a pathway leading towards the south; and at a small distance from the place of my concealment. They were all muffled up in cloaks, and as the moon fell faintly on them, I perceived each wore pis-

tols in his girdle. They whispered as they passed along, but their voices blending with the hollowing of the wind, I could not catch a sound. Ere many minutes elapsed, I again heard a faint sound in the same direction as before, approaching evidently in trembling haste.

A sudden and piercing shriek of anguish rose upon my ear, as if it were a female in deep distress. What can this mean, thought I, some bloody deed I fear, and what can I do? Thrilled with horror, I revolved in my mind what steps to pursue. To fly to the rescue of the poor sufferer single handed, into the midst of a lawless banditti, would have been madness indeed. To procure assistance from other wandering shepherds in the forest was impossible; there remained but one alternative, and that was to fly to the city, and rouse the cavalry: and here, thou wilt observe, Ioao, is when I so deeply reflect. However, I rose from the place of my concealment, and with trembling steps, proceeded in the direction of the voice. I had not advanced far, when another most awful shriek, issued from among the trees, in a still more melancholy echo; I, therefore, stopped irresolute what to do, terror shook my frame like an ague, and stepping softly and hastily back, again hid myself behind the tree. Alas! courage forsook me, at the very crisis, I needed the resolution and strength of Aegon, I sunk upon the ground. Yet consciousness did not for a moment forsake me; I heard the doleful moan of anguish, still

more distinct with every gust of wind, which probed my heart. I wept in agony—rose on my knees, and fervently clasping my hands, prayed the blessed Santa N. R. Azree, the guardian of the forest, whose miraculous power in time past, had rescued man from imminent danger, would now put forth her divine power, in aid of this poor sufferer. But while I was thus engaged, the sound of voices and footsteps arose, and turning my eyes in the direction of the sound, I saw two persons slowly approaching by the same path, which the others had gone. The one appeared to drag forward the other; and as they drew nearer, I distinguished the voice of a female, she uttered a shriek, as she struggled to escape the firm grasp of the ruffian; having breathed a moment, she made another effort to escape, but the ruffian drew a pistol from his girdle, and in a voice as rough and austere, as that of stentor, commanded her to proceed; the very sound chilled the blood in my veins, and shook my body like an aspen leaf. Lord have mercy, said I, what shall I do: would to heaven that some help was near. The rustling of the leaves accompanied every step, as they came along; and on passing an opening in the trees, a glimmer of moonlight, enabled me to disern the rich dress of the female, who must have been some person of consequence: she uttered a convulsive groan, as the ruffian, wrapt in a large cloak, which concealed his figure, forced her along. I listened attentively until the the last sound of their footsteps died away; I then rose from my concealment, as if awakening from some

delusive dream, agitated and trembling. I cast my eyes around, but all was again silent, save the lark, sending forth her cheering notes, to welcome the grey streaks of the morning, as they stole across the skies. The sun rose from the chambers of the east, in one ardent and boundless blush, throwing back the sable curtain of night, and shedding his refulgent rays, over the gloomy aspect of the forest.

I hailed the welcome blessing, and summoning resolution proceeded after the herd; yet the dreadful outcry of human agony, still resounded in my ear; and, Lord help me, the voice of the holy monk, this day, bore so strong a resemblance to that of the ruffian in the forest, on that dreadful occurence, as to terrify and confound my senses, and, unfortunately, lead to the present relation, which my connexion with the forest, and the dread I had of the banditti, ever detered me from unfolding to mortal man." "'Tis a strange story," said Ioao, "and particularly in thy allusion to the voice of the holy monk; whose christian rectitude, and pious labours, indicate tenderness of heart, and freedom from vice." "Good God," replied Jerronymo, "did I ever suspect the holy father, of such inhumanity; it was merely a similarity of voices, that shook my nerves, and awakened in me those sensations of alarm." "Well, to be sure," said Ioao, "some men's voices are much alike; but it was wise in thee to keep thy counsel; although it was a pinching task, to see the poor lady so roughly hand-

led. Why, Lord bless thee, if thou hadst but uttered a word, doubtless the ruffians would have served thee to the worms, in a dish of mince meat; for I'll warrant they murdered the poor soul, without the benefit of absolution."

The monk, on entering his apartment, threw himself into a chair; he gnashed his teeth, as he muttered over the few sentences he had overheard between Henrique and Clarissa. "The subdolous skip-jack," said he, "nurtured by the hand of charity;" for it had been revealed to him that Henrique was a foundling; but the time and place of his discovery, had never been mentioned; "'tis well," continued he, "that I have discovered thy artful contrivances; and I swear by the hour of my death, to frustrate thy ingenious design on the fair Clarissa." With this resolution he took the earliest opportunity to throw out some strong hints to Maria, respecting the impropriety of Henrique and Clarissa, associating with such unrestrained freedom; stating the inferiority of Henrique, and laying great stress upon the evil, which undoubtedly would arise, by indulging an attachment, which in the end would be difficult to remove: the consequence thereof would be to fill the family with the utmost anxiety and alarm. Under these circumstances, continued he, you may imagine the continual anxiety I labour under, in the discharge of my duty, toward your daughter; and I should be wanting in gratitude, and, also, unworthy of the confidence reposed in me, were I to wink at, or

to remain silent on a subject which so deeply concern the future peace and prosperity of this noble mansion. As he concluded, Maria, raised her head, and looking at him steadily, replied, "I am much surprised at the remarks you have made, holy father, and we are certainly much indebted to you, for the kind attention you have paid toward this important matter; for my part, I assure you, I had no conception that there existed between Henrique and Clarissa, the slightest digression from the path of rectitude, and innocent amusement; but, should those suspicions be correct, it certainly will be necessary to use means in order to stop its further progress; for, however much I may regard Henrique, as his foster parent, yet it would be highly imprudent to allow any improper attachment to mature." "Until I was confirmed in these suspicions," said the monk, with a feigned smile, "it would have been reprehensible in me to permit my doubts to appear." He then related the occurrence on the cliff, as a proof of what he had asserted; and further contended that a recurrence to these adventures, would be productive of the most serious consequences. "And I do assure you" continued he, "I experience the greatest repugnance at being obliged to state these things, on account of their delicate nature; nevertheless, regard for the honour of the family, and out of pure humanity for the youth Henrique, as an orphan, have induced me if possible to prevent an evil, which has for its tendency the embarrassment of his condition, and also to plunge the family into inextricable difficulties."

" Heaven forefend," exclaimed Maria, " in the keen emotion of maternal solicitude, for she loved Clarissa, beyond all expression; and Henrique also bore an equal share in her tender anxiety; he had no other friend or protector, save herself and Domingos; and had been allowed to call her mother, and participate in all the tender endearments of parental attention, added to the incidental occurences of his early years, all tended to knit him close to her heart, and present obstacles of the most delicate nature, in seperating him from associating with Clarissa; yet the alarming remarks of the holy monk, rendered such a step necessary, in order to place Clarissa beyond the reach of accident. But how to accomplish this object, under the various circumstances connected with the young people's indissoluble ties from childhood, was a matter of serious deliberation; under this perplexity, she knew not how to act. On reflection, however, she thought it would be most adviseable, to inform Domingos, of the circumstances that had come to her knowledge. And, consequently, as soon as Domingos entered the apartment, she began to detail the nature of the holy monk's suspicions, evincing, at the same time, considerable alarm for the honour of their daughter. " Be not uneasy on that account, my dear," said Domingos smiling, " 'tis nothing more than a little caprice on the part of the holy monk; who has forgotten the circumstance of the children, having been brought up together; which, uudoubtedly would, engender a natural attachment for each other." " Besides," added he, " Clarissa possesses a

purity of mind, incapable of any mean or dishonourable attachment, which might affect the peace and prosperity of the family ; and therfore I must have further proof, before I can allow myself to entertain such an idea." "And further," observed he, "Henrique is endued with a noble and generous spirit ; in which I have too great a confidence, to suppose him capable of a conduct so superlatively indiscreet and ungenerous. However, to allay your fears, my dear, and prove the absurdity of these suspicions, the holy monk, can henceforward keep a watchful eye, upon the steps of the young people ; which I am confident he will find to consist of nothing more than natural and innocent affection." Ah, thought Maria, feeling her love and hopes revive, it is even so ; the children cannot be ungrateful ; the repugnance with which we admit a conviction of the faults of those we love, furnishes a striking proof of the existence of that moral sense, which nature has indelibly imprinted on our minds.

Maria's fears allayed, she resumed her wonted tranquility, and things went on in their usual train, save the vigilance of the holy monk, over the proceedings of the young people ; in all their recreations or rambles on the cliffs, he invariably appeared as if by stealth, to avoid observation, which much surprised the young people. And Clarissa observed how very extraordinary it was. " It certainly is very remarkable," replied Henrique, " these frequent meetings, but 'tis mere chance that brings the holy monk, into the same ram-

bles with ourselves." "I wish," said Clarissa, "that chance would direct him to the monastery, or any where it pleases, save his presence here." "Why so, my dear sister," enquired Henrique, "because—because—he has—" "Has what," cried Henrique, pressing her to his bosom, "speak, I conjure thee?" "He has offended me." "Heavens, sayest thou so; then I will offend him," drawing his dirk, "I will smite him to the earth." "Nay, my dear brother," cried Clarissa, holding his arm, "'tis on thy account I am offended; didst thou not observe, the sarcastic air, with which he addressed thee in the library yesterday. Truly, brother, I have remarked a very singular behavour in the monk, toward thee of late, which has created in my heart, the greatest abhorrence." "Oh, no! my dear sister," replied Henrique smiling, "let not these illiberal ideas enter thy mind. I have discovered nothing uncommon or extraordinary in the conduct of the holy monk; there is a natural austerity in his manner of speaking, which thou misconstrues for displeasure; passing this, I believe him to be extremely pious, and devout in his calling: besides, what have I ever done to deserve his hatred or displeasure?" "Nothing, my dear brother, thou were always extremely kind and obedient; deserving his esteem and affection, rather than his frowns and tauntings; even the custom of common politeness, requires in return, civility. But I know not how it is, my heart forbodes evil, and leads me to apprehend some mysterious design in the conduct of

the monk." "Prithee, my dear sister," replied Henrique, somewhat surprised, "banish these thoughts from thy mind; it cannot be--I cannot entertain such an idea. It would be inconsistent with the sanctity of his calling, as a devotee of the blessed saint Sabastiao—good God! to cherish evil, would be opposite to all christian feeling, and holy fellowship, the inseperable graces of his divine master; whose habit he wears, and whose doctrines he prescribes." "Very true, my dear brother, yet I cannot, for some unknown reason, dispel these fears from my mind." "Well be it so," replied Henrique with a sigh, "I am very sensible of the untoward passions of men, and I have also discovered the follies and vices of mankind; but there is an ineffable goodness in providence, which has learnt me to bend with submissive reverence to its decrees."

The monk who had ascended a rising ground, which gave him an opportunity of seeing all that was acting below, in rage, muttered to himself, "Where is thy confidence thou inflexible fool. Behold, Domingos, the virtuous nursling, in whom thou places unlimited confidence, with uplifted arm and glittering dirk, threatening thy daughter, to a compliance with his impudent importunities; and, notwithstanding, thou wilt tell me to my face 'tis nothing more than innocent freedom; but my life on it, ere long thou wilt bitterly regret. Contemptible wretch," exclaimed he, no longer master of his feelings, and turning to the

left, stole along the avenue to the mansion ; and seating himself at the window of his apartment, began to reflect in what manner he ought to act. " If," said he, " I openly disclose to Domingos, what has passed, the milksop will treat it with indifference, and regard me with an incredulous air ; but thou, Maria, ah ! thou art capable of impression ; thou wilt listen to my advice, and conform to my opinions. Yes, thou shall be the bow, from which I will shoot discomfiting arrows, into the heart of the crafty villian. However, it will be necessary to use caution ; the case is very delicate, and I may overshoot myself; it will be requisite to pursue a conduct suitable to the case. I must, therefore, assume tranquility, and put on a complacent air, in order the better to penetrate into the young people's projects, and draw them into my power with a view to this object. I must be silent, as respects the present event, until a more favourable season, and by insinuation gain the confidence of the young people ; in order that I may have a perfect knowledge of their schemes and conversation, without which I shall not be able to accomplish my design, with the incredulous Domingos, whom I have only to fear. For, said he, his confidence in the youth, is unquestionably great, and, therefore, to convince or produce the slightest alteration of his opinion, will require undeniable proofs. To effect this, I must use considerable art and ingenuity, examine the matter narrowly, and guard against his penetrating into my views, or detecting in my conduct any blameable motive. He

reflected on every thing he had overheard, conjectured, or divined; his anger increased beyond all bounds, as he pictured to himself Henrique basking in the arms of uninterrupted felicity. But a secret hope that he should be able to frustrate that happiness, diffused a ray of joy over his mind; and he determined to watch every opportunity, to bring his schemes into operation. A multiplicity of ideas, floated on the stream of his imagination, which gratified the moment, and as quickly vanished, or borne away in the current of perplexity, until the vesper's bell recalled him to his duty.

One day Domingos and Maria, sought retirement under a shaded bower in the garden, and seating themselves, Domingos, expressed his admiration of the serenity of the season. "How sensibly," said he, "has the dew refreshed these beautiful flowers. The fervent heat of yesterday's sun, had almost parched the face, and exhausted the sweets of nature; but what a sovereign restorative are these cooling distillations of the night; how they gladden and invigorate the languishing herb; and we, exhaling their fragrance, at once regale the sense, and indulge the fancy; insomuch, that the ravished eye looks round in wonderous delight, and the heart insensibly expresses its adoration of the divine creator. Turn whether we will, all stands forth dressed in all the charms of beauty, exhibiting the rich and providential care of God over all his creatures. Behold, my love, for example, the trees

of our garden, how they bend under the weight of their fruits; and the delicious grape, peeping, with a delicate hue, from under its spreading leaf; while our plains are covered with the liveliest verdures,—sweet retirement! thy charms far excel all the pageantry of the metropolis. Tell me, my love," continued he, pressing Maria to his bosom, "could we be more happy than we are at present; God knows how I have merited, that my days should pass with so much satisfaction." At this moment their attention became arrested, by the approach of old Antonio, conducting towards them an elderly gentleman, who on a nearer approach, appeared evidently to labour under great emotion, as his tottering limbs bore him along. "Wonderful are the ways of providence," exclaimed the stranger, in a pathetic tone, as he drew near to Domingos. "I am right, it is he, undoubtedly it is he; his countenance bespeaks the truth thereof. Oh yes! it is he; God be praised, my dear boy, my dear boy, throwing his arms around the neck of Domingos; and fervently pressing him to his palpitating bosom, he wept." "Oh! God," said Domingos, in a trembling voice, "what means all this? regarding the stranger with attention, while a deathlike paleness overspread his countenance, and gazing with astonishment, exclaimed. "Why this agitation and tears, aged sir, cease I prithee, good father, and explain the nature of thy business?" The old man's heart fluttered: he slowly raised his eyes towards Domingos' visage, which he had lowered in order to conceal the tears, he was un-

able longer to restrain; and minutely scrutinizing his features, again relapssd into a state of insensibility. "God give us aid," said Domingos, who shook him, made him respire odours, and pressed him against his bosom; while Maria, in the greatest alarm, darted to the fountain, and brought water to bathe his temples. At length, he sobbed, and opening his eyes, gazed on Domingos; but it was some time ere he could give utterance to the excess of his feelings: recovering, he clasped his hands, and raising his eyes toward the firmament, he said, with emotion, "O adorable Father! O Father of heaven and earth, thou hast heard my prayer: thou hast gratified my desire; and now, O merciful God, I am resigned to thy will, when it please Thee to call me. O yes!" continued he, while the tears rolled copiously down his wrinkled face, on the pale cheek of Domingos, "I am happy—'tis enough—thou hast permitted me to behold the face of my nephew; the only branch of the Delgadoes; the child of my beloved and departed brother." "O God," cried Domingos, lifting up his eyes in astonishment, while his heart beat violently, he could only articulate these single words, "my Uncle," and fell on his neck, kissed his withered cheek, pressed him fervently to his heart, and mingled his tears with those of his aged relative.

Maria, who had been a silent spectator, was now sensibly affected, and could no longer restrain her tears. approaching Domingos, she embraced him; and in the

most affectionate manner, urged them to compose their feelings; but all her entreaties could effect nothing more than half stifled groans. The peculiarity of the interview, and the unexpected circumstance of find- himself locked in the arms of his Uncle, whom he had long understood to be dead, excited his feelings, and absorbed all his faculties. She suffered their feel- feelings, in some measure, to exhaust themselves; and then, when more composed, assisted by Domingos, she supported their aged relative to the mansion. And seating him in a chair, Domingos said, "my dear Uncle, to what extraordinary circumstance are we to attribute the pleasure of this meeting. A period of twenty years, at least, have expired, since my Uncle da Rocha, received from the Brazilian government, an account of your melancholy death, by the hand of an assassin."

Maria, smiling, suggested that it would be more prudent, to leave their aged relative awhile, in order to compose his agitated feelings. "Thou art right, my dear," said Domingos, "my Uncle will then retire to his apartment; and after dinner we will request him to favour us with a recital of the circumstances connected with his safe return to Portugal. As soon as dinner was ended, Henrique, reminded Domingos, who enquired if his Uncle felt sufficiently composed to comply with their previous request.

"My dear children," said the old gentleman, "if a

recital of painful circumstances, connected with an adventures life, will afford you interest or amusement, I will endeavour to satisfy your curiosity so far as lies within the compass of my recollection. I feel, it istrue, exceedingly frail, from the decrepitude of age, nevertheless, my heart abounds with gratitude to the Almighty; whose providential care has been so wonderfully displayed in my preservation. In youth I bore symptoms of delicacy, which greatly discomfited my father; whose avaricious desire after riches engrossed his whole attention. He was a man renowned as a skilful merchant; but seldom troubled himself with the concerns of his family, only where his mercantile interest might be aggrandized thereby. My brother was of a strong constitution, and was taken very young into the warehouse; which pleased my father very much, as a profit was likely to arise out of his labour. But myself, he would say, was an expensive piece of lumber, not worth warehouse room.

One evening my father came home in a higher flow of spirits than usual, and taking me by the hand, said, my dear boy, I have long viewed you with deep concern. The precarious state of your health renders you unfit for the toils connected with our business. I would rejoice if a means could be adopted, whatever the expence, so that your health was restored, to enable you to earn your livelihood, without being a dependent on the labours of others. On this subject I have consulted with our physician, who strongly recommends a

change of climate, with light employment; fortunately, I have this day received a letter from my friend and correspondent, Senhor Joaquim Couceiro, a very eminent merchant at Rio de Janeiro, who wants a lad; you will just suit my friend, and I will fit you out to go; the sea voyage will tend greatly towards the restoration of your health; besides, you will be of essential service in looking after my interest. You know what I mean, my boy; have an eye to the scales when goods are for me, which is a weighty matter now a days, and receive your father's blessing. The ship Barcellos is now lading for Rio de Janeiro, she will be ready in a few days for sea, I will treat with the Captain for your passage; and your mother, in the mean time, will make the necessary arrangements for your departure.

My mother opposed my father's proposition in the most determinate manner, declared it to be a wild goose scheme; a feverish imagination of the brain; decidedly injurious to my health: she entreated my father in the most empathic manner to give up the idea, but without effect. The selecting of the choicest merchandise, and balancing the scales in my father's favour was paramount to all other obstacles. All her entreaties were of none effect; she, therefore, drew me to her bosom, and in the most affectionate manner kissed my cheek, while the keen emotions of parental love broke forth into a flood of tears.

At the expiration of six days, a message announced

to my father that the Barcellos had dropt down to Belem Castle, and would put to sea the following tide. My heart now forsook me; the deeply painful sensation of the immediate prospect of a long and distant seperation from the land of my fondest and earliest recollections; and from my dear affectionate mother, overwhelmed me in the most profound sorrow. My father saw the agitated state of my feelings, and taking me by the hand, while my mother followed, we bent our way in silent grief to Belem. The captain received me on board, and immediately gave orders to weigh the anchor. My mother threw her arms around my neck; bathed my cheek with her tears; kissed me, and faintly uttered adieu, my child; fell on the arm of my father, who, shook me by the hand, reminded me of his interest on the other side of the water, and departed with my mother in the boat. The bustle attendant on the ships departure appeared greatly to predominate over my sadness. The sailor's hearts seemed to beat high with glee, whose elasticity of spirits are remarkable. They were surrounded by every circumstance that could render their voyage propitious. With a fine fresh breeze from the north east, the Barcellos speedily passed the Fort St. Julia, at the mouth of the Tagus, so dear to my remembrance, on which my eye was anxiously fixed, until it gradually diminished from my sight, as a small cloud sunk into the ocean. With slight interruptions of bad weather, we continued to make way until the morning of the eighth day, when we discovered a large ship

bearing upon us with crowded sails. Every eye was turned towards her, and various were our conjectures. Our captain crowded the ship with sail to avoid her, but without effect; she was heavy laden and a slow sailer; the frigate perceived our intention, hoisted more sail and approached us with great rapidity. We soon distinguished the French flag, when our consternation became manifest; our seamen ran below to their chests, took out whatever was valuable or necessary, and, folding them up in their hammoks, returned with them on deck, in order to await their capture; which, under our circumstances, would have been madness to resist. Notwithstanding, our captain continued his course, which was presently interrupted by a shot from the frigate across our bows; we, thereupon, hoisted our flag and hove to; when, to our heartfelt joy and surprise, she hauled down her French colours, and hoisted the British flag. A friendly sail cheered our drooping spirits and relieved our fears; the sailors resumed their vocation, while the captain prepared to receive an officer from the frigate, who came on board of us. He saluted our captain with much civility, enquired our destination; and after making the accustomary enquiries returned again to the frigate. We then gave the frigate three cheers, and proceeded on our voyage.

A scene of a very ludicrous character now ensued on board our ship; the captain whose ghastly countenance depicted his inward feelings of alarm as the

frigate approached ; began now to assume an exalted position ; boasted largely of his undaunted courage ; and drawing his sabre brandished it in the air, as he strutted the deck, swearing by six hundred millions of devils that he was all but. "All but what," said I, "All but what, my lad, why I was all but cutting down these English baboons, like cobwebs before the wind ;" throwing himself in attitude corresponding with the action of his sabre. "We Portuguese," said he, "are the most valiant nation under the sun ; we have fought the most glorious battles that ever history recorded ; we invaded Africa, and took the port town of Centa from the Moors ; discovered the Madeira Islands; invaded Morocco, and took the town of Tangier ; passed the Cape of Good Hope, and planted colonies in the East Indies ; possessed ourselves of South America, and planted the Christian religion in India, Persia, China, America, and Africa. In fact, every nation in the world are indebted to the valour of our arms." "Viva ! viva !" resounded our seaman, who now began to affect a considerable degree of self-importance ; stretching wide their mouths in eagerness to swallow every sentence of the captain's heroic account of their country's exploits ; while a diffusion of joy brightened the countenance of the whole crew. I know not to what extent these extravagant exultations might have been carried, had we not been suddenly arrested by a gale from the south west, which gradually increased during the whole night. At day-break the gale abated, and the sun burst forth in all his

wonted splendour; and with a fine breeze the Barcellos plowed the briny main with great rapidity.

Towards evening we descried a sail a-head of us, prosecuting the same course with ourselves, having the Portuguese flag at her mast-head. She appeared to be labouring under great difficulties, and making little way. Early on the following morning, we came close in upon her; she proved to be the Braga of Oporto, and had sprung a leak. Gracious heavens! what a picture of human misery, combined with the most barbarous cruelty was now presented to us. On the deck of the Braga lay stretched a number of poor Negroes, bound two and two together, each poor creature's head tight laced to his fellow sufferer's feet, with a cord encircling the whole body. In this manner were these unfortunate fellow beings, prepared to be thrown overboard by this inhuman crew, with a view to lighten the ship, in order to reach the leak; streams of tears furrowed the deck; while their piteous cries rent the air with conflicting feelings of parental and filial affection—a husband for his wife, a mother for her child, and the child for its parents. Thus were their sable bosoms heaving high and quick, as if at once to burst asunder their fetters, and avenge their murderers. No eye had they to pity, nor friendly hand to rescue them; their supplications for mercy rose only to be silenced by the lash of the cat, and their mutilated bodies lay gored in blood. Horror struck with this melancholy drama, I hastily descended to the cabin, threw myself on the sofa; the fate of these poor un-

offending mortals just on the brink of a premature death, thrilled my very heart ; a trembling seized my frame, while a host of melancholy reflections crowded on my mind, and as quickly departed. All power of acting or thinking became absolutely paralized.

In this state of inertion I lay, until aroused by the entrance of the captain, who said, "Come Senhor Delgado, the captain of the Braga requires a little of your assistance." I rose from the sofa in wild agitation, casting an eye of indignation on the captain, whom I surveyed with the utmost contempt. "My assistance," replied I, "My assistance did you say. What, to be a murderer ? No, never will I imbrue my hands in innocent blood, nor be a willing instrument in brutally sacrificing human life." "Psha ! my lad," replied the captain, "wipe of these childish tears, and put on the demeanour of manhood. One would fancy thou hadst just escaped from the facinating smile of some fair damsel, whose enchanting caresses touched the finer feelings of thy heart. Arouse ! my boy, I have agreed to take a part of the captain's cargo : come with me and lend us a hand." "Is then this melancholy tragedy to be avoided. Are they to be saved?" I hastily enquired. "To be saved my boy ; yes ! for the market of Rio de Janeiro ; with the blessing of Santa Maria, and six hundred milreas my freight, a mighty luck chance, not to be refused, I can afford an extra bottle at Rio. Come, my boy, no trifling, we must hasten the cargo on board. By means of a rope sus-

pended to a part of the rigging, two hundred of these poor creatures were quickly snatched from the jaws of death, and transferred to our ship. While these unfortnnate sufferers were being stowed below, the captain of the Braga came on board, saluted our captain with a kiss and a hearty embrace. "I shall now," said he, "be able with a little labour to stop the leak, it is a most fortunate circumstance having fallen in with you, my good captain. You see they are a parcel plump chucks, turning over two children with his foot, who lay bound, as described before on the deck." It would have been a serious loss to me had the brutes been thrown overboard; a finer cargo I have not had for many voyages. Here is a letter you will give to my friend Senhor Joaquim Couceiro, on your arrival at Rio de Janeiro, who will take charge of my part of your cargo; as you in all probability will arrive some days before me, adieu! adien! my good captain. May the blessings of Santa Antonio, accompany you the remainder of your voyage." "Amen! amen!" reiterated our crew as we parted company.

On hearing the name of Joaquim Couceiro mentioned by the captain, my blood turned cold in my veins, a wild delirium seized my brain, I staggered into the cabin, fell upon the sofa; while the agonizing feelings of my heart, burst into a train of bitter lamentations. "Oh my father! my cruel father! is this the eminent Joaquim Couceiro, thy friend and correspondent, into whose service thou recommendest thy son; and has

banished him from the land of his nativity, to be an assistant in the horrible traffic of human beings. O my mother! where is now thy tender caresses and filial affection, to soothe the afflicted bosom of thy wretched son; perhaps thou now weepest: oh! yes, many are the tears which have rolled down thy cheek since my departure; but didst thou know the poignant feelings of thy son at this moment, what agony would thy tender bosom contain. Oh! my racked brain, the wild disorder grows more painfully confused. Sweet heaven! support my sickening heart; no sounds of genial heart reviving joy approach my ear; the bitter groans of the sons of sorrow surround me on every side. Boast no more, vain captain, of our country's achievments, or national honour. Where are her grand exploits? where her boasted religion, and sympathizing humanity, while her sons can with impunity sacrifice the life of man for lucre? See our ships laden with human beings, bound in fetters as the wild brutes of the forest; cast an eye into our markets, and behold them exposed for sale as cattle in a fair. O my unhappy country! when wilt thou emerge from this state of human depravity, and wipe of the stain which now sinks thee below the meanest of realms. And must I pervert my conscience by co-operating with this wretched man, who filleth his coffers out of the sufferings of his fellow-beings. No, I will wander the streets of Rio de Janeiro in quest of employ. I will solicit alms. I will occupy the meanest situation; but to serve a man who trafficks in human beings, I never will,—I am resolved.

This resolution alleviated my spirits a little, and I began to think of the plan to pursue on arriving at Rio de Janeiro ; when the captain entered the cabin, rubbing his hands in exultation. " Well Delgado," said he, " a good brisk breeze, and the sight of Cape Frio, would cheer my heart. I would then bag the crusades, my boy, and hoist these noisy brutes on shore." Casting a scrutinizing eye upon me, he said " Thou lookest sad my lad, what ailest thou? Some sweet little charming nymph thou hast left in Lisbon, I trow, is fretting thee into fiddle strings ; cheer up my boy, I will bring thee a packet of sweet consoling letters, as big as mount Atlas, on my return." The mate here hastily summoned the captain upon deck ; I followed to see what was the matter. The poor Negroes were suffocating for want of air. I, for the moment, lost sight of my own sufferings, and readily assisted in constructing a ventilator, or air pipe for their relief. A part of the cargo was also altered in its stowage to admit a free course of air. While these arrangements were being made, my attention was arrested by the cries of a poor Negro ; a young man of very powerful make, who appeared to labour under great bodily pain. I steped up to him, and found his leg much lacerated and dreadfully bruised, I ran to the cabin, brought some lint and salve from my medicine chest, rent a piece of linen, with which I made a bandage, applied a dressing of the lint and salve, and bound up the bruised limb with the ligature I had made. The poor sufferer seemed very grateful for this little attention ; never-

theless somewhat surprised to find humanity extended by any of the ship's company ; I informed him I was only a passenger, and endeavoured to console him under his unhappy circumstances.

I then returned to the deck—found the captain and mate consulting ; a dark cloud was gathering in the south-west, which betokened a change of weather. It extended with great rapidity, accompanied with a strong wind, covering the waters with darkness in its progress. The rolling of the ship was vastly increased by a tremendous swell ; the wind rose to a violent hurricane ; the watery mountains flowed in magnificent and full succession, as if to threaten us with immediate destruction ; the activity of our seamen kept ample pace with that of the gale ; our larger sails were speedily taken in, or closely reefed. I now thought of poor Sampi the Negro, and hastily folded up a quantity of linen which I conveyed to him, in order to make a cushion for his wounded limb, to preserve it from the further injury it might be exposed to, by the heavy lurches of the ship, which now became tremendous. The night began to close upon us, when the dark clouds burst forth into loud peals of thunder ; the rain descended in torrents ; while the electric fluid illuminated the waters in grand but awful magnificence. In this lamentable state of eminent danger, at the dead hour of night, having struck our top gallant yards, we were lying to under a triple reefed main-top-sail ; our solitary vessel reeling to

and fro, under our feet, in the deep trough of the sea; the waves rolling higher than the tops of our masts, as if at once to bury in its deep our devoted vessel, thus contending with these gigantic mountains; the lightning flashing over their summits with dreadful velocity; descending the watery valleys; striking the white spray which dashed furiously over our ship, as if in hostile engagement with the raging sea. The rolling of our ship was so much augmented by her weight, that our main chains were thrown by every lurch considerably under water; and every article of furniture in the cabin was dashed about with so much violence, as to excite the liveliest apprehension of our immediate immersion beneath the foaming billows. The alarm of our seamen, their incessant appeals unto their favourite saints for mercy, imploring with significant gesticulations, and in noisy supplications their protection, increased with the eminence of the danger; and our fears, amid the surrounding darkness, were greatly augmented by the shrieks of the unhappy Negroes in the hold; some yielding themselves up to the most frantic despair; while others, after remaining a while in silent abstraction would suddenly burst forth into a long train of loud and desponding lamentations, and gradually subsided into their former stillness. Our situation, at this period, became exceedingly alarming; the seamen who had put forth the most strenuous exertions from the commencement of the storm, were now completely exhausted. All their efforts to control the ship were fruitless; they threw

themselves down upon the deck in a state of despair, imploring the intercession of saint Francisco, in pardon of their sins, while making the melancholy announcement, that all hope must be relinquished, that death was inevitably approaching. Our captain's courageous boastings were now transformed into a tremulous quivering, he wrung his hands in agony of soul, crying, " Meu Deos ! Meu Deos ! libra nos do Mal."

The passive condition to which we were all reduced, was well calculated to raise our thoughts to that Omnipotent Being; who, alone, had the power to effect our deliverance by the spirit of his mercy. As the dark clouds were disappearing, and the precious light of another day opening upon us, He rebuked the wind and the raging water, and they ceased; affording us ample room for deep and awful reflection in the gloomy moments of that dark season, when the dissolution of every earthly distinction seemed near at hand. How inexpressible must be the out pourings of every heart, in gratitude, thanksgiving, and praise, to that immortal Being, who ushereth in the morning light with a merciful hand of deliverence, from so perilous a situation. Again were our sails unfurled to the wind, with a lively hope, and cheering prospect of eventually reaching our destined port. A solemn silence reigned on board as the ship glided along; each one seemed to be absorbed in deep meditation on the past event, the Negroes ceased to murmur, the captain and crew to boast; all wore the appearance of mutual gratulation, and of

becoming acknowledgment of the Divine mercy for our unlooked for deliverance. None felt disposed to much interchange of thought ; each one being rather inclined to wrap himself up in his own reflections. On the afternoon of Tuesday, the fourth of April, the delightful exclamation from aloft was heard, "land ahead ;" in the evening we descried Cape Frio, and running rapidly along the coast we joyfully cast anchor in the harbour of Rio de Janeiro, at ten o'clock on the following morning, which was serene and delightful, contributing much to the splendid and interesting views of the country around us ; which was magnificently chequered with woods of evergreens, meadow grounds, and beautiful quintras.* These meeting the eye of the traveller in every direction, was well calculated to raise his weary sea sick thoughts to a high state of admiration on the beauties of nature, when contrasted with the perils and dangers of the sea storms he has just encountered, and weary with tossing to and fro on the Atlantic ocean.

I sought the earliest opportunity to place my foot on terra firma, and put into execution my previous resolution not to enter into the service of Couceiro ; I, therefore, took the opportunity of the captain's absence on shore to leave the ship, employing a slave to carry my baggage. On reaching the shore the thought suddenly flashed upon my mind, what course should I pursue. I thought to myself, I have no relative or friend-

* Houses surrounded by fruit trees.

ly hand to receive or welcome my arrival, none to offer the smallest hospitality, no friendly roof wherein to cover my head from the burning sun, none to whom I can confide my unhappy circumstances, all are strangers pursuing their various vocations heedless of my forlorn situation. With these distressing thoughts floating on my mind, I paced several streets wrapped in deep meditation, without once thinking of the slave sweating under the weight of my luggage; at length I was aroused from this state of intellectual perplexity, by his asking to what part of the town I required my luggage to be conveyed. I wildly threw my eyes around for a moment in suspense what reply to make, when I observed a green bush suspended over the portal of a door, in token of a house of entertainment, or Casa da Pesta. "Yonder," replied I, pointing to the bush. We were met at the door by my host, a stout little figure of a man, whose face was ornamented with rosy pimples, demonstrating the fact that he proved the quality of his liquors. He received me with a profusion of bows. "Your excellency," said he, "is welcome to the best my house affords," ushering me into an appartment, in the corner of which sat a number of Creolis, engaged at cards, who, hearing the dignified title given me by my host, rose respectfully to pay me obeisance, and withdrew to another apartment. My host soon re-entered the apartment, making a low bow, "Your excellency, I perceive, has just arrived from Lisbon; ah! the name of that dear spot, always fills my mind with a train of

melancholy reflections of past events. If my grandfather had not been forced to quit Lisbon for an affair of honour, I would not have been under the necessity to occupy this humble station ; as your grace must remark from my appearance, that my blood is of no ordinary degree," gracefully drawing from his pocket a gold rimmed snuff box, and presenting me with a pinch. "When a person has had the honour," said he, "of living with people of the first rank, he is disgusted with such manners as he finds here ; the worthy folks are wholly ignorant of polite life, and on that account I am often subject to much mortification, although my house is frequented by all the nobility in the neighbourhood," ennumerating a long list of Fidalgos, with whom he had the honour to be acquainted ; adding, "I am extremely happy in the honour of your grace's visit," at the same time making great professions of friendship, and offers of his services.

The conversation was suddenly interrupted by the abrupt entrance of my hostesss, whose eyes flashed like lightening, her throat largely extended by rage, which found vent by the thunder of her tongue, in a volley of abuse upon my host, who, not admiring the inharmonious sound of her muse, quickly retreated to a corner of the apartment in evident alarm. "Was ever any thing so provoking," said she, "you drunken sot, did I not charge you in my absence, to attend the kitchen duties, and here I find you, as usual, annoying our guests with frothy talk, while I have la-

boured from break of day, in preparing this dish for my Count of ———, and here it is, from your inattention, burnt to a cinder, you brutish fellow." She then threw the dish with its contents in my host's face, who, not approving of the jest, returned a blow on her head; their honour now concerned, they both would try for it, the strokes were lustily laid on by each, in spite of all my intercedence, receiving myself several blows from my hostess, while endeavouring to separate them; in the scuffle we were all thrown npon the floor of the apartment. While in this situation, a party of police entered, and took us all in this condition, with our clothes torn, to the lock-up, or prison, in order to bring us before the Intendant general of police. A pretty condition of circumstances I was now placed in, accused by the police, notwithstanding my declaration to the contrary, as one of the aggressors, and lodged the first night of my arrival in a cold filthy prison, with the disgraceful prospect of standing before the Intendant general of police, on the following morning, as a disturber of the public peace. At an early hour the next morning, we were removed from the prison, under an escort of police, with drawn swords, to the office of the Intendant, in order to have the matter investigated, and our punishment awarded. The down cast countenance of my host and hostess, as we passed under the gaze of the populace, on our way to the office, evidently shewed that their polite breeding was much abashed by the unfortunate occurence. On arriving at the office, we were ushered into the presence of the

Intendant, who, after hearing the police report, ordered us to stand before him. "How now, Senhor Francisco Gansalves," said he, addressing himself to my host. "Hum, hum," stammered my host, in evident embarrassment what to say. "Illustissimo Senhor, whom God preserve," said he, making a low bow, "never knew your humble servant in any other character than one of the most dutiful and peaceable subjects in all our beloved princes' domains. Ah! your eminence, if you knew but as much as I do in respect of my spouse," shaking his head, and retiring to a respectful distance from her, wiping his eyes filled with tears, "What a change of character," said he, "since the happy days in the Rua de Prate, when she plighted her love unto me; soft were her caresses, sweet and melodious her voice, the sound of which softened, enchanted, enflamed, and captivated, my heart. She would glance on me a look of sweetness that touched the chords in my heart, which, until then, had been mute, but I felt them vibrate in her presence; she would kiss my lips with so much delicacy, while breathing a soft sentiment of her affection, that enflamed my soul, captivated my senses with a restlessness insupportable, which allured me into the bands of wedlock; and were they the effect of artifice? Yes, your eminence, the voice which seemed to speak from the heart was studied, all these appearances were false, no sooner had she got me securely pinned to her sleeve, than her sweet temper vanished, her melodious voice changed into rough authority, commanded me to do

this and that, under various appellations of you stupid fellow, addlehead, cherrycheek, with such like unpolite indignities, while all her former sweet caresses are transformed into blows, of which your eminence now has ocular demonstration, from the tattered appearance of my garments, and bruised body. By the confounded rib roasting I yesterday received from her hand, with a dish and its contents in my face, disfiguring my respectable features, and swollen my head like unto a blubber cask, merely for neglecting to stir a simple Fricasee." "O, monstrous! monstrous!" cried my hostess, her womanhood now in flame, she could no longer stifle her resentment, "and does the brutish fellow call my favourite and delicious ragous, so famed far and near, a simple fricasee; the sot to use me so and giggle in my face, a woman so well bred as I; how dare the coxcomb offer such an affront; save your eminence's presence, I would break the rascal's pate, and learn the noddy, a woman to respect." "Hold, my good lady," said the Intendant, "you forget in whose presence you are, such language is foreign to the dignity of my office; appease the tempest of your rage, let modesty guide your tongue, which is the science of decent motion, a regulater of all decent and comely carriage and behaviour, checking and controling rudeness; a sober reproof has more effect than words delivered in a heat or passion: you owe respect and affection to your husband; you ought to use gentleness to soften and entertain him; there is more power in your tears than your arguments;

and, therefore, things prudently managed will by degrees bring over your husband to see his errors, acknowledge his failings, and take care for the future to amend them. Your virtues displayed in this manner would be the mirror wherein he would see the deformity of his irregularities ; but a proud haughty temper is hateful, it is as opposite to humility as light is to darkness. The virtues which are the ornaments of your sex, combined with meekness of the understanding, a pliableness to conviction, owning your faults, reducing your passions to calm temper, not suffering them to ruffle or disturb you within, nor disquiet others ; such a line of conduct I would strongly recommend to you, my good lady, for your future guide, as a christian virtue, and as a peculiar accomplishment of your sex. I highly censure your conduct in this affair ; but I am, nevertheless, willing to dismiss the case, on entering into your own recognizance for your future good conduct, and maintaining the peace, on pain of imprisonment." "And, pray, what part has this respectable looking young man taken in the affair," said the Intendant, "What is your name, and where do you live?" "My name, your excellency, is Urbano Joze Delgado," said I, "but as to residence I have none as yet in the country, having just arrived from Lisbon." "Your eminence will please to observe," said my host, "the young gentleman is in no way to blame in this matter, and I feel extremely sorry for the indignities he unforunately met with at my house as a respectable guest, together with the un-

merited hardships he has had to suffer on our account." "Where is your passport, young man," said the Intendant, "I don't find your name in the register?" "Here it is your excellency," drawing it from my pocket and presenting it. "You may now retire to your home," said the Intendant, to my host and hostess, "but this young man must remain to have his passport renewed."

The Intendant opened my passport, "Delgado," said he, "is a name familiar to me. You are not in any way related to my esteemed friend, Joze Ferriero Antonio Delgado, at Lisbon?" "I am his son, your excellency." "Indeed," said the Intendant, "and what are your views here?" "I left Lisbon, your excellency, with the intention of entering into the service of Senhor Joaquim Couceiro, but I have since altered my intention my determination, and am now in quest of employ." "Well," said the Intendant, "if I can render you any service in this matter, I would feel extremely happy in doing so out of respect to your father; and as you are a perfect stranger in this country, I will take you under my protection until you are situated." "I thank your excellency," said I, my eyes overflowing with tears, "for the interest you take in my welfare, as a stranger; such disinterested friendship impresses my heart with a deep sense of gratitude and esteem, such as will never be erased. I will avail myself of your excellency's favour, and, I trust, that your excellency will never find me to im-

pose upon your credulity, or encroach on your goodness." "Enough," said the Intendant, "you are truly welcome, I will immediately despatch a servant to Senhor Francisco Gansalves, for your luggage; and one of the clerks of this office will conduct you to my house, where you will get some refreshment and rest, until I am at liberty to attend you."

On approaching the palace of the Intendant, I was much struck with its splendid appearance, exhibiting some master pieces of sculpture and architecture; the front was extensive and elegant: around the entrance were a number of figures in striking positions, shaded by ornamental trees, with extensive gardens, abounding with oranges, lemons, grapes, and fruits of various kinds; with cascades, and aviaries beautifully dispread amongst the pleasent walks, so judiciously laid out and overshaded by ever-greens, sanative and aromatic herbs, roses, and other flowers; with basons stocked with numbers of the finny race, whose elemental sports displayed through the transparent waters, as if to vie with the feathered tribe, whose warbling notes enlivened the beauties of that delightful residence. I was met at the entrance of the palace by the beautiful lady of the Intendant, who had just alighted from her sedan, she received me very graciously, ushered me into a magnificent apartment, directed the servants to spread the table with refreshments; and here, for the first time since my departure from Lisbon, I partook and enjoyed a hearty meal. After satisfying my

appetite, I knelt down and prayed with the greatest fervency, pouring out my humble gratitude unto the Lord, for his merciful preservation, while passing through the deep and trackless ocean, and His providential intercedence in raising me up an unexpected friend and protector in this far distant land.

I resigned myself to the disposal of heaven, and continued wrapt in mental devotion, till a knock at the door announced the arrival of the Intendant. "Well, my friend," said the Intendant, "I hope you have made yourself comfortable; I indeed observe an evident change for the better: you look cheerful and happy." "I am so, your excellency," said I, "and I find my heart strengthened above what I can express, by your kind attention." "I have already," said he, "entered upon your business; and I hope to succeed; but the mercantile business in this country is extremely harassing, and I think more than your constitution will be able to bear. I would strongly recommend you to enter the army, the service is light and infinitely more adapted to your present state of health. If so, I shall have no difficulity in procuring you an appointment. "I am already under great obligations to your excellency," said I, "for your kind hospitality and protection, and, therefore, I leave myself wholly to the disposal of your excellency, in whatever capacity your better judgment may adopt." The Intendant took my hand and led me to another apartment. "My dear," said he to his lady, who

gracefully arose from a magnificent settee, " this young gentleman is Senhor Urbano Joze Delgado, the son of a dear friend of mine, to whom I was under much obligation when last at Lisbon ; I have taken him under my protection for awhile ; receive him, my dear, Arabella, as my friend ; and direct the servants to prepare an apartment for his accommodation. Senhora Arabella very politely acceded to the request of the Intendant, and immediately withdrew to give the necessary directions. A short conversation ensued, when we each retired to our seperate apartments ; tears unavoidably fell from eyes, as I entered the apartment so neat and comfortably arranged ; the extreme kindness of the Intendant and his amiable lady, whose accents were so extremely gentle and sweet, that aroused in my heart feelings of esteem, gratitude, and affection. Sigh after sigh escaped from my bosom—while contrasting the harsh unfeeling conduct of my father, with that of the kind disinterested attention of this amiable family, I was thrown into a profound reverie, from which I was only aroused by the entrance of a servant, with a message from the Intendant, desiring my attendance at dinner.

In addition to the family of the Intendant, were two young officers of the army, Lieutenant Joze Francisco de Megre, and ensign Carlos de Amor Ferreiro, and a young Spanish lady, Senhora Eladia Verde, sister to the amiable lady of the Intendant. We sat down to dinner with mutual cheerfulness, the

conversation was spirited and enlivening, and I enjoyed the repast with more satisfaction than I had felt for a long time. In the evening, Carlos proposed to accompany me into the garden, to enjoy the refreshing breezes which prevail after the gentle showers, which almost daily fall from the heavens in this climate; his fine open countenance displayed a sensibility of heart that won my affections, and gave me a longing desire to be more acquainted with him. I readily consented, and on entering the shaded walk, Carlos said, "Sir, whatever griefs and misfortunes you may have endured, you may reckon them at an end, from the day you are protected by his Excellency." "I firmly believe it sir," said I, "and my heart enjoys already more happiness than I ever yet felt, and promises me all that I can wish in future." "Yes," said Carlos, "such indefatigable zeal, and laudable exertions in promoting the welfare of his fellow beings, spread a lustre on his character, that entitle him to our warmest esteem and affection. Make him, sir, your confident, and you may rely upon a faithful friend and judicious counsellor."

At the end of the avenue we were joined by the Intendant, his lady, Senhora Eladia, and Lieutenant Megre. "I am afraid we interrupt your deep conversation," said the Intendant, smiling; "but," said he, "I rejoice Carlos, to find you and Senhor Delgado, already united in mutual friendship, I hope Lieutenant Megre, will also find an agreeable companion in

our young friend." Lieutenant Megre bowed, and turning into another walk led us again to the palace, where we spent the evening in the pleasures of convivial mirth and hospitable entertainment. The next morning I arose in good spirits, and waited on my benefactor; we were soon joined by Carlos, who showed great attention and respect to me, and offered me his best services without reserve, which I accepted with equal respect and modesty. The rest of the family soon joined us, and we breakfasted together; afterwards, Carlos desired me to walk out with him to take a view of the town, which was pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Janerio, in 23 degrees south latitude, consisting of several excellent streets and extensive warehouses—the houses lofty, generally four, five, and six story high; but their shops are ill constructed as in Lisbon, the interior quite dark, and their merchandise completely hidden from the view of the public. Large droves of slaves meet the eye in every direction, variously imployed; while their inhuman masters appear to live in idleness, inactivity, and without any spirit of animation, indulging in smoking tobacco and loitering, chiefly depending on the toil and labour of these half famished sufferers, to enrich their coffers, and feed them with the luxuries of the earth; while the poor negro slave is content to make a scanty meal on the lean parts of the whale. Their coffee houses, which are exquisitely decorated with paintings, representing landscapes and other views, are much resorted to; chiefly by sans Coulottes,

and other persons of trade, whose social hours of conviviality are much interrupted by the incessant appeals of priests, monks, and friars, imploring charity in the name of the holy virgin; and, to add force to their solicitations, will enumerate a long list of favourite saints, with a number of feigned miracles and fabulous stories; notwithstanding these pious mendicants are in possession of considerable emoluments, magnificent churches and convents, whose huge towers meet the eye of the stranger at almost every turn.

The town is agreeably refreshed with breezes from the sea, and abounding in springs and rivulets, which are of great use to the Brazilians in turning their sugar mills. There is no country between the tropics where the heats are more tolerable, or the air more healthful, except the months of March and September, when they have such deluges of rain, with storms and tornadoes, that the country is overflowed, and the air unhealthful; sudden gusts of wind frequently arise with great violence, one of these overtook us, on passing the corner of the Rua do Corpo Santo, with such force as took us completely off our feet, and threw me with great violence against a person passing at the time. "Avast," cried my antagonist, "port your helm, shipmate, six hundred devils! but this is rough sailing," rubbing his eyes, filled with dust. On recovering ourselves, we recognized each other, it was the captain of the Barcellos, whom I had so unavoidably and roughly encountered. "Holla, shipmate,"

said he, "viva! viva! my dear boy, how came you to break away from your anchor and disappear; but thanks be to Santa Maria, and this brisk breeze, which have thrown me athwart of you, although you have nearly brought away my topmast," rubbing his head from the effects of the contusion received by the fall. "Here," said he, "have I been reaching out first on the starboard, then on the larboard tack, through every Rua in the city, in hope to fall in with you; at length, by mere chance, I cast anchor at the hotel of Senhor Francisco Gansalves, to take in a fresh supply of provisions, when I heard of your capture and safe anchorage in limbo. Under these circumstances, I was steering my course to the office of the Intendant, with a view to effect your release, when this gale so fortunately brought us in contact; and now, master runaway, I hope, that you, being satisfied with sailing through the channel of disobedience, will perceive your folly, and drop your anchor in the port of repentance, ere you incur the displeasure of your father, and immediately proceed with me to Couceiro, who anxiously awaits us." "No sir, that I will never consent to," replied I. "How now, my good boy," said the captain, in evident surprise, "what capricious whimsey is there now afloat in your top rigging; have I not already delivered your father's letters, and my instructions were—"Not," said I, interrupting him, "to force me into slavery, or to learn the wretched practice of the branding iron, to torture, wound, and disfigure the healthful body of my fellow being, nor

to serve a wretch, whose meat and drink issue from the hard pressed pores of human suffering. No, my good captain, whatever odium may stigmatize the national character of my country, I am determined, at the risk of my father's displeasure, to eat my crust, however poor and mean, untainted with the blood and suffering of my fellow man; thank God, there are some rising plants of nature, adorned with christian virtues, and free from the heinous vice of man traffick, yet among the Portuguese, however far our country may be sunk in depravity, who can feel and deeply lament her sin, in tears of compassion and commiseration for those of her cruel captivity. Ocular demonstration requires no proof, cast your eye, sir, upon this group of beings just passing us, behold their destorted veins, moistened with sweat, and scourged by their callous hearted driver, to the mansion of idleness, with the fruits of the earth, the produce of their hard wrought labour; and are they not minutely of the same machinery as you and I, require the same sustenance, and the workmanship of that God, whom we are enjoined by our holy creed to reverence and respect in the work of His ordination. And canst thou not see that work so ingenious and perfect in all its parts, disfigured by our countrymen,—ferocious cruelty, and barbarous oppression. View their sable backs covered with deep inflicted sores, produced by the thong of the whip, until their blood moisten the earth they cultivate. Oh! sir, a susceptable mind cannot but feel for the thousands of human beings, barbarously robbed of that

freedom, the bequeath of our creator, and the heritage of our forefathers—torn from every endearing tie of nature's wisest and sweetest gifts; to spend a short life of labour and penury—of cruel and oppressive bondage. See the big tear of parental anguish rolling down the mother's sable cheek, as she views the wistful look of the tender offspring of her cherished hope, borne away in the monster's grasp. With outstretched arms and weeping eyes, in cries in vain for protection to that parent; no longer free to afford it relief, but hurried straight to the lurking bark, and wafted by the wind's unyielding sway, far from its native shore to a foreign land, to wear out a life of hard wrought misery and pain." "Cease," cried the captain, "on this subject, my dear boy, thou art a singular being—a thousand devils! but thou hast caused the dew drops to fall from my eyes; let us retire to yonder Casa da Pesta, and refresh our spirits with a cup of wine after this melancholy dream." "Dream, my good captain, it is none," said I "but a melancholy fact." Well, well, my dear boy, a fact," stammered the captain, insensibly affected by the conversstion.

He, nevertheless, had recourse to many expedients in order to shake my resolution; but as they produced not the smallest effect, he at last said, "Couceiro, will undoubtedly write your father, and the devil of a whirlwind I shall be in on my arrival at Lisbon. In all probability doused in neptune's salt-wash by the tempest of your father's rage, for not fal-

filling his instructions, and leaving you a wanderer unprovided in this country. But I wash my hands of all responsibility, quit the ship with clean decks, and have no connection whatever with your procedure ; so let the thing go as it may, I will not say another word." "Act as you please, my dear captain," said I, "fully sensible of your well meant persuasion, I return you my warmest gratitude, and beg that you will condescend to be the bearer of a letter from me to my father, which will clear you from all blame connected with my non-compliance with his wishes ; and as regards my future welfare, I am already, under the providential care of the Almighty, richly provided with a friend and protector, in the amiable, worthy, and exalted individual, the Intendant, and my adopted brother and much esteemed friend," presenting Carlos. "The devil you are," replied the captain, stretching wide his eyes with astonishment, and scratching his head as if awaking from some delusive imagination. "The blessed virgin protect us," said he, turning towards Carlos, whom he saluted with a low bow, "strange occurence, my young shipmate, already to have found favour in the protection of so eminent a personage as the Intendant. Heaven be praised, I am free from responsibility ; but I have frequently heard of his Excellency's good services." "Ah," said Carlos, "his humanity and goodness of heart, surpass all comparison ; there are many who eat of his bread, and drink of his cup, and join in prayers to heaven for their noble benefactor ; his virtue and abilities are

an ornament to the state, in whose service he labours with zealous assiduity. But, alas, good will and incorruptible zeal are not sufficient in this country, far from it ; if you place a person of the greatest talents and the most immaculate virtue at the helm of affairs, what advantage will you obtain ; while you are confounded with the indolent of the court, affairs are still ill conducted, and the people groan under abuses, prosecution, and slavery. For those that conduct an administration badly, and support abuses, have the most influence in their management, so that a man of the highest character has small chance of success ; the concurrence of these very people is necessary to all his plans ; if he acts without their concurrence he finds himself fettered on all hands ; and the only thing that can support him is the ardent hope and expectation that better times may arise ; in which, I trust, also, that time will operate powerfully to produce a re-organization of the constitution of this beautious country ; and place her in the high and enlightened rank of other nations ; free from unmerited ambition, intrigue, idleness, and luxury, the fruitful sources of all vice, and the ruin of kingdoms."

" Yes, my dear Carlos," said I, " among our numerous defects, may be reckoned our supercilious disdain and contempt of foreigners, imaginary greatness, deceit and revenge, which is too often carried on with impunity ; and also our want of that spirit of enterprise which distinguishes other nations. But, we are

astonished at many of the events of the present times, not many ages have elapsed since their seeds were sown, which now begin to germinate, so that statesmen themselves cannot comprehend them, and are beyond their power to prevent." "Fudge, upon your times," said the captain, "was there ever such times as the glorious days of Americus Vesputius, and our gallant mariners, who planted our standard on this land, and threw into the lap of our mother country its vast wealth and commerce." "True, my good captain," said I, "but were there no ravages or sacrifices in its accomplishment?" "Why, to be sure, we had to keep our packs of great mastiffs, and had our hunting days to clear the land from its encumbrance—the Indians. In that we were only like our neighbours, and they were cannibals our dogs destroyed." "God knows, captain," said Carlos, walking up and down sorrowfully, "when I reflect on the cruelties, ravages, and torments, exercised upon the miserable inhabitants of this vast territory, by our early adventurers, I am filled with horror and disgust, and almost ready to renounce the name of Portuguese, whose imprudences have counteracted their bravery, and buried their honour in the gulf of oppression." "Avast, my friends," cried the captain, "haul in your wind, and sail clear of reproach, ere you are shipwrecked on the rock of vengeance by the offended spirits of our ancient heroes, who fought so gloriously against the infidels, and expelled them from our land; who converted the eastern nations, and banished the Jews out of Portugal; who

compelled the Moors to profess christianity, and scattered the seeds of civilization over three quarters of the globe; and were these not praiseworthy acts achieved by our gallant countrymen. No more of your traducing the grand exploits of our nation, so renowned in the annals of history; having spread the light of salvation to thousands of heathen souls; and opened the commercial navigation of the east to all Europe. Know ye my friends," continued he, much irritated, "that I cherish in my heart the love of my country; rejoice in her glorious attainments; and I am ready, whenever need require, to defend her dignity at the point of my sabre, brandishing it over his head, in signification of his enthusiastic attachment; and seizing us each by the hand, bid us adieu, saying, remember, Delgado, that mysterious beauty at Lisbon, who awakened in your heart such painful sensations of melancholy inquietude, and tears on our passage. Let not the facinating smiles of the fair ones of this country estrange your heart, but remain faithful as a turtle dove, and afford me the inexpressible delight of handing her, on my arrival at Lisbon, a consoling epistle to cheer her drooping heart. Prepare your communications, my dear boy, by the end of the month, so farewell—the blessing of saint Antonio, protect you."

We returned to the palace; after dinner the conconversation turned upon the ladies of Rio de Janeiro. "They have become so insipedly tiresome and frivolous," said Lieutenant Megre, "that their society is

uniformly fatiguing; for, if one introduce any serious subject of conversation, they immediately reproach you with having forgot the etiquette of good company." "You are become extremely difficult to please, Lieutenant Megre," replied Senhora Arabella, "I really think that the ladies of Rio de Janeiro, are extremely pleasent and obliging." "Nothing," said the Intendant, "steals more imperceptibly into the hearts of men, than an unaffected simplicity of female delicacy and manners; these virtues, however, are not regarded among some nations; yet, delicacy is the centinel of female virtue, and one of the greatest ornaments of the sex. Though fashion be a woman's idol; yet, fashion should not by excess of refinement, be suffered to lead a woman into those errors, which make her disgustful in the eyes of man. We may infer from the natural disposition of man, that beauty has in all ages been the subject of praise and flattery; and it is natural for women to wish to possess those charms in themselves, which so much captivate the men, while, at the same time, there is scarcely anything to be found that appears more disagreeable than to be proud. A becoming modesty, and native simplicity of look, will triumph over artificial beauties. Indeed, if a woman be adorned with all the embelishments of art, and nature to boot, if boldness, scorn, and haughty looks be imprinted in her face, they blot out these lines of comliness, and like a dark cloud over the sun, shade the view of all that is otherwise amiable. On the contrary, a courtly and

affable carriage have such charms, that they endear all, and insensibly steal away the heart.

"I shall not, I think, Senhor Delgado," continued he, smiling, "be over-stepping the bounds of the strictest propriety, if I apply these inestimable virtues to the ladies of Lisbon. There is an openness and sincerity of conduct prevailing among them, which is at once calculated to captivate the senses, and impress the heart." "Very true, upon my life," said Carlos, "your Excellency has touched Delgado, upon a very delicate subject, for I have heard from the captain of the Barcellos, a few hours ago, that he is deeply in love with a charming nymph of these pure regions." "Ah," said Arabella, "that accounts for the tears I perceived in the eyes of Senhor Delgado, this morning." "That is very likely," replied the Intendant, jocosely; "for I cannot persuade myself, that our young friend possesses the cold heart of a Nun, who, the better to secure her interest against the most insinuating rival of human love,—the noblest passion of the mind, intends to admit none." "Such a thought under my circumstances," replied I, rather embarrassed, "would be highly reprehensible, however much I may regard the Divine injunctions; it would be inexpedient for me to venture on steering a course in so dangerous a sea, where so many rocks and sands lie hid under the swelling waves of passion's stream." "Yes," said Lieutenant Megre, "and if not carefully avoided, will fatally wreck the happy days of your

life," shrugging up his shoulders. "A very dangerous experiment," said Eladia, with a smile bordering on contempt, "and fatal, indeed, I persume would be the wreck of man's immaculate virtues, if the frail bark inadvertently approaches the invisible rocks, under the alluring surge of woman's subtlety." These remarks disconcerted Lieutenant Megre, he blushed, stammered, and taking a book retired.

After he withdrew, the conversation turned on the splendour of the court, at the recent festival, but it was interrupted by the arrival of some letters, that were brought to the Intendant, with which he retired to his closet. Arabella, continued the subject which had been interrupted by the arrival of the messenger, and made several remarks on the brilliant illumination of the town; the novel and tasteful decoration of the churches, and the beautiful display of the fireworks exhibition. In about a quarter of an hour, the Intendant returned again to the apartment, and taking my hand, said "My dear friend, I have the gratifying pleasure to inform you, that I have succeeded much earlier than I expected in procuring you a commission in the army; and I am still further delighted to know that the regiment, you are appointed to, will remain some time in the town, and, therefore, we shall not altogether be deprived of your society; and, I have only to add, that I shall be most happy to see you at all opportunities. This information filled my heart with estatic delight, especially the last sentence which

entitled me to the confidence and society of my amiable friend. I bowed low, and gratefully returned thanks. After receiving the congratulations of the ladies, and my esteemed friend Carlos, I retired to my apartment, and kneeling down poured out my humble gratitude unto God, and besought his protecting care, through every stage of the important and hazardous duty I was about to enter upon.

On the following morning I accompanied my benefactor to the town, in order to make the necessary preparations for my departure ; and at the expiration of a few days, I joined my regiment. I met with a very kind reception from my commandant, who introduced me, generally, to the officers, amongst whom I found many valuable friends, whose gay and lively carriage tended greatly to relieve my mind, and insensibly led me into a variety of diversions, peculiar to the intrepid soldier. Some deserve and require a degree of our attention ; the manly exercises of the garrison contributed towards the restoration of my health ; my strength progressively returned, and I was soon in a state of convalesence. Such an acceleration of spirits as I then enjoyed, soon enabled me to join my companions in the mess room with cheerfulness ; a grand gala at the royal riding school, was the topic of the room, and anticipated with infinite joy.

A general invitation had been issued to the officers of the garrison, who awaited the event with anxiety,

which was at length announced by the sound of music, and the noise of a great number of chariots. The school had been magnificently arranged for the accasion—and I confess that I felt somewhat disconcerted on being introduced to so brilliant a party ; but I was soon relieved from this embarrassment, by the cordial reception of my benefactor, and the graceful affability of Eladia, who was very splendidly attired, and appeared as an angel dropt from the heavens in perfect purity. The ease and unaffected dignity with which she received the salutations of the company, delighted my soul ; and kindled in my bosom, sensations I had hitherto been a stranger. My cheeks burnt with a feverish heat, whenever her pure eyes glanced upon me ; and I observed, or rather suspected, she regarded me with more than ordinary attention, which penetrated to my soul, and I felt the most awkward confusion ; insomuch, that I became absent to all save the fair Eladia, whose angelic form impressed my imagination, as the most perfect of all creatures. The evening passed with the most tormenting anxiety, and, taking my leave, I returned to the garrison ; my features bearing the expression of the tumult of my mind. When alone, I became more and more affected, I contemplated her amiable innocence, and saw a thousand charms in the dignity of her beauty and virtue, that interested my heart.

In this state of mental agitation, I lay upon my couch, until having completely exhausted my strength,

I fell into a profound sleep. On awaking, I found myself sufficiently calm, to reflect on the events of the last night; and I perceived, that when the mind has been deeply affected, it is more liable to imbibe an evil, which causes it infinitly more pain than what it has already experienced. An insurmountable barrier presented itself to my imagination; Eladia was not only fair and beautiful, but also the friend and relative of my benefactor; to whom I was so much indebted, and from whom I had received such unparalled kindness, that I dared not to offend, or requit those attentions, by a conduct so indiscreet and ungenerous. Besides, she was of noble birth, destined to receive the hand of a man of rank; and, therefore, it would be utterly impossible for any man of inferior degree, to aspire to her favour. He may admire—he my revere, but not persume, lest his presumption should meet with its punishment. Under a sense of my own inferiority, I blushed at my vanity, which had led me into such extravagant follies; conscious from these circumstances, and my uncertain fortunes, that I could not honourably declare my pretensions, I, therefore determined, however much my heart might be lacerated, to condemn myself to eternal silence.

I durst not see her the following day, because my mind had not assumed sufficient tranquility. I wished to be alone, but an invitation I had received from the Intendant, could not be refused. I repaired to the palace with a trembling heart, and was received by the

Intendant with his usual cordiality. He soon left me alone with Arabella, who, having entered into a short conversation, at length proposed a walk in the garden; as we entered the avenue, I perceived Eladia,at a distance, walking under the shade of the vines. I trembled with anxiety as we approached. Eladia curtsied in silence, without raising her eyes, and I also remained silent; Arabella alone spoke, she observed that her sister had been indisposed ever since the entertainment, owing, probably, to her having caught cold. "I am sorry to hear that," replied I, in a very feeling tone, "a little gentle exercise, perhaps, may prove a restorative." "Oh yes," said Arabella, "the physician does not consider it to be of any consequence." We proceeded slowly down the walk, when a message arrived, requiring the presence of Arabella in the palace. "I will quickly return," said Arabella, "and do you, Eladia, take the arm of Delgado, in order that you may walk with less difficulty." I presented my trembling arm, and she laid hold of it. Arabella re-entered the palace, and we turned into a covered alley.

The idea of being left alone with Eladia, had wholly deprived me of all presence of mind, and I feared that in attempting to speak, I would betray myself. I, nevertheless, perceived that I ought to make an effort, I opened my lips, but did not utter a single word. At length, in a suppressed tone, I was enabled to enquire if she had caught cold. "'Tis nothing," re-

plied she, smiling, " I am better than the anxiety of my relations suppose ; free air and moderate exercise are the only remedies the physician has ordered." " May I also add my solicitations to that of your friends, that you would be careful of your health." " I assure you, sir, with a sentiment of gratitude, that I am not seriously indisposed. I hope in a few days you will find that the invigorating air of this shady retreat, will have perfectly restored me to my wonted health." " Heaven send it," breathed I in a half smothered sigh, which caught the ear of Eladia, she blushed, and cast her eyes to the ground. I raised my head towards the firmament, in order to conceal my agitation, and changing the subject, spoke of the delightful retreat and solitude ; at length I became so much master of myself, that I could turn my eyes upon her fine visage, the crimson blush had fled, and paleness had usurped its place ; yet, I thought that she had never appeared so beautiful, which rendered me more tender and serene. I conversed with her on the buddings forth of nature during spring ; and at last ventured to make some observations on the past entertainment. Our conversation became calm, nay, even gay ; all timidity had disappeared from my looks, which manifested the most unreserved confidence, when Arabella overtook us, accompanied by lieutenant Megre. He fixed on me a scrutinising look, and appeared unusually distant ; Arabella, however, entered into a very lively conversation, and after a short time, we again returned to the palace.

We there partook of an excellent repast, with mutual cheerfulness, lieutenant Megre excepted, who appeared gloomy and ill humoured to every one during the remainder of the evening, but particularly so to me. I thought he looked on me contemptously, and smiled mysteriously whenever I spoke, which excited in my mind suspicions that he possessed a passion for Eladia, and was mortified to find us together in the garden. These ideas made me somewhat uneasy, and I withdrew at an early hour. When alone, I began to reflect on the conduct of lieutenant Megre, what could those mysterious smiles infer, hatred or jealousy; the former he can have no plausible reason to entertain, and the latter, if he loves Eladia, it is certainly in a manner rather disguised; his observations the other day were any thing but agreeable, and met with a quick and rigid reply from Eladia; which, had she entertained for him the slightest regard, would certainly have replied with less severity. His noble birth and brilliant prospects were unexceptionable, and in every degree equal with her own, was she susceptible of experiencing such a deep attachment to him as a real passion; while the immeasurable distance which separates me, prevents me ever to raise my hopes to her, I am truly sensible that she will never deign to look upon me.

Thus perplexed with such ideas wandering in my mind, I retired to rest, determined to banish Eladia from my thoughts, and to do every thing in my power

to recover my wonted tranquillity. The duties of the garrison, and the lively sallies of my companions, had a tendency to relieve my mind ; but, when alone, all my resolution forsook me, and I could no longer restrain my feelings. Eladia ! the beautiful Eladia ! absorbed all my faculties, and I perceived that my love for this adorable girl, was a passion of the most pure, strong, and indestructible, nature ; but were I even certain of becoming happy by the avowal of my love, durst I hazard to do so. What am I ? an unfortunate being, dependent on my commission, with no other friend save my noble benefactor, whose worthy and generous heart I dare not insult, nor violate his friendship, by a declaration of my passion for his amiable relative. No, I will suffer the torments of my soul, to descend with me to the tomb ; eternal silence shall seal my lips, for I, ah, I alone am culpable. Oh ! divine Eladia, I love thee ! Yes, I love thee ! and thy fate afflicts me I sighed deeply, and pressing my forehead with my hand, paced the apartment in agitation.

My door, however, was suddenly opened, and Carlos entered. " Good heaven ! my dear friend," cried he, " What aileth thee ? How thou art altered ? Thy eyes, thy fallen countenance : thou dost not look like thyself." " I feel, sir, a little indisposed, arising from some slight interruption of the system, but nothing of any consequence ; I shall, I hope, soon regain my health." " Sooner the better, my dear Del-

gado ; believe me, I feel very sensibly affected at the visible change which has taken place since I saw thee last, indeed, sickness pervades the Metropolis; a gloomy aspect hangs over the lively and hospitable mansion of the Intendant. Eladia, is passing away like a shadow, the malady she labours under baffles the skill of the physician ; and, consequently, the family experiences the deepest anxiety. The vermillion hue that once shone upon her cheek has been replaced by a death-like paleness ; and her wonted vivacity converted into a settled melancholy. Notwithstanding all the solicitations of her friends, and the assiduous attentions of lieutenant Megre, she refuses to participate in any amusement, and withdraws from society into the most obscure retirement. In fact, I believe, that, the poor girl's disease is of a mental nature ; could she only be induced to speak; could she only be prevailed to make any one a confident of the cause of her sufferings, her cure would be half effected ; but to all the questions of her friends on the subject, she observes the strictest silence, and in order to evade their importunities retires.

Every word uttered by Carlos, augmented my torments ; I arose, and went to the window, returned—opened some books—then closed them as quickly,—and again threw myself on the sofa. "I am sorry, very sorry, my dear friend, for this poor girl ;—but has lieutenant Megre, no claim to her confidence ? Does she not love him ?" Carlos shook his head, and

replied, "such a desirable object, has long been the wish of his cousin, the Intendant, and every means have been used by lieutenant Megre, in order to gain her affections; but were I to judge from appearances, and particularly of late, I should be inclined to think that he has the misfortune to be her aversion." "That is a misfortune," replied I, "severe enough." When the entrance of an officer of the garrison, put an end to our further conversation; and after a few general remarks Carlos withdrew.

The most excruciating anxiety now absorbed all my faculties, and I abandoned myself entirely to grief. The suspicions I had entertained respecting the attachment of lieutenant Megre for Eladia, were now, by the remarks of Carlos, established beyond a doubt; and I felt all the torments of a lovesick brain, wandering in the dark valley of despair; without hope, or light to guide my future steps, in this unfortunate attachment. No, I will remain without consolation—I love Eladia, and the grief which I shall continue to experience, in effect will be the descent to the tomb. Yes, unhappy and disconsolate, what a miserable young officer I am? And thou, Eladia, thy celestial soul contends with the bitter pangs of mental affliction. Yes, thy heart, once the seat of repose, is now the chamber of discontent; thy eyes once so penetrating, are now fountains, from whence issue streams of tears; thy countenance where once sat the fascinating smile, is now sad and macerated; and, oh! thy figure,

once so elegant and gay, is now passing away like a shadow. And why, angelic woman, dost thou mourn? For whom does thy heart in silence grieve? Oh! God, could I but remove the cause, methinks, I would again be happy. Yes, to behold thy tender glances, to hear thy ravishing voice, Oh heavens! 'tis unsupportable, my heart bleeds at every pore; lacerated by piercing darts, it still combats against itself—but my resolution is feeble, my soul strives fruitlessly to regain its tranquillity.

Where am I to fly? Thy image, O! Eladia, stands before me as a barrier to my repose. My imagination represents thee, as pacing the solitary path, as if all terrestrial objects had lost their value in thy eyes; save the fundamental cause of sorrow, which has worn thee down to a perfect spectre. Formerly like a rose, to day thou art like a lily in the fields; the still grove bears record of thy sufferings; there thy heart beats more freely, and there thy fair bosom swells and heaves its load in sighs and groans. Peace thou hast forgot; the hue of death is on thy cheek like snow, and I, ah! will link my parting hour with thine. Yes, when thou turnest thy half-closed eye for the last time towards that world in which thou only experienced suffering, then I will approach thee, and say, "I knew thy exalted soul, and I loved thee." Thou will at least regard me with an eye of pity, and I shall expire in extacy.

With these melancholy ideas, I left the apartment,

and it seemed to me as if I wandered in the most profound darkness. I reached the suburbs of the town, and entering a lonely path, seated myself behind a cluster of trees, in order to indulge my thoughts. I supported my head with my hand, and began to brood over my unfortunate circumstances, when I was presently aroused from my reverie, by a faint groan issuing from the opposite side of the thicket. I started upon my feet, and listened attentively, but all was again silent. "Great God," said I to myself, "is it possible that the functions of my mind can be so greatly perverted, or my imagination so strongly excited, that erroneous sounds break forth from my ears, and bewilder my senses; surely, my ears deceive me, if I heard not the sound of human wretchedness. Listening with trembling expectation, a second groan increased my consternation; and straining my eyes through an opening of the trees, I perceived a lady seated under the shade of a spreading elm, apparently in deep meditation; her eyes fixed on the ground, and her hand pressed upon her bosom. She sighed deeply. "O God," said I in a low voice, "is it possible that another unfortunate being, also seeks this solitary retreat, in order to relieve her mind of its weight of grief, in sighs and groans, to every passing breeze." I stole softly around the thicket, and drew near to this object of affliction; she perceived me not, and I leaned forward, in order, if possible; to divine why she was thus agitated, but the thick entwining shrubs obstructed my view; nevertheless, the sound of her

voice arose on my ear. I paused, and listened to these plaintive lines.

Oh, for a moment s pause, a moment's rest,
To calm my heart, and ease my breast ;
'Tis vain ye little warbling throng,
To allure me by your artless song.

Cease to chant your airs with glee,
And come thou cooing dove, and weep with me,
Or bear upon thy wings so fleet,
One single tear—drop at Delgado's feet.

The last sentence petrified me like a statute. I stood, I gazed, I trembled ; fond surprise possessed my throbbing heart. Oh ! 'twas Eladia,—I burst from my concealment—she uttered a loud shriek, and fell insensibly into my arms. I pressed her to my heart, she regarded me with a suppliant air, and I kissed her pale cheek ; she raised her trembling hand as a barrier between me and her feeble heart ; I took it, and sighed in a low voice, "Eladia ;" she grew paler, her heart palpitated. "Eladia," cried I, and pressed my parched lips upon her cold and pallid cheek. She opened her eyes, and looking around her with astonishment, said " where am I ?" It was an apparition. Oh, no, it is Delgado. After a moment, during which she seemed to reflect, she arose with greater calmness. " This is too much," said she, in a low voice, " by what magical power hast thou surprised me in this place of solitude. O ! Delgado, despise not a feeble being, because that her secret has thus been discovered ; doubtless thou wilt pardon an unfortunate being."

"Pardon thee, O! my angel," cried I, and I had not power to add another word. I cast myself on my knees before her, and kissing her hand, remained an instant in this attitude, and then replied, "Generous soul! ought I not rather to ask thy pardon, and entreat thee not to despise this heart, which, under a too rapid impression, became inflamed. Yes, my divine Eladia, a flash of lightning, which in a moment opened my heart, and inspired me with a serious and ardent passion. In the interval of returning reason, I perceived the imprudence of my conduct, and blushing at my presumption, I resolved to banish every thought which had a tendency to disturb my mental tranquillity; but, alas! my heart feeble, my resolution forsook me, and I fell a prey to the most tormenting anxiety; insomuch, that I had no relish for the society of my brother officers, and I rather choose to be alone, in order to indulge my feelings in solitude. Nay, even life were but a blank—a dark and dreary wilderness, without one single charm, or balmy sweet, to cheer and dispel the heavy cloud that hung around my soul; nevertheless, I forsaw the evil, and I fled from the danger, but all my efforts were in vain; my heart was fixed—irrevocably fixed. The world might go round, and the seasons change, they could not effect my love, all my thoughts were concentrated in thee." I sighed,—my heart fluttered,—I pressed her fair hand between my own. "Pardon me—O! my adored Eladia—despise me not." I took her hand with tenderness, and pressed it to my lips; she turned

her head aside, to conceal her emotion. I arose, and threw my arms around her waist, pressed her fervently to my heart, she sighed—and gently reclining her head on my bosom, to hide the rising blush—we wept. At length, Eladia recovering sufficient composure, turned her face towards me, and presenting her hand, said, "Delgado, I regard these proofs of thy affection, but by the memory of that regard thou profess to bear me, I conjure thee, to be silent on all that has passed. We will meet here to morrow at the same hour ; until then, farewell. I approached, and taking her hand, pressed it to my lips, bowed low, and retired.

Celestial sounds seemed to follow my steps ; heaven was in my bosom. I reached my apartment, and threw myself on the sofa, while a thousand pleasing ideas flowed on the current of my imagination ; henceforth, life to me was only to think of Eladia, I loved her, and it was the only feeling of which I was conscious. The thoughts of possessing her love, raised such visions of delight in my mind, that I went on from love to infatuation ; my brain was in a manner turned. I could hear nothing, save the sweet accents of Eladia reverberating on my ear. In this state I retired to rest ; I laid down and tried to sleep, but the consuming fire which circulated in my veins, rendered the effort vain, and I lay, exulting in the consummation of present happiness ; picturing the future with images of felicity, until the early sound of the bugle aroused me to a sense of my duty. I

arose, and emerged into the open air; it was filled with the fresh breath of perfume; the rose bared its damask bosom, the leaves fluttered on the waving boughs, from which dripped the luminous dew drops of the early dawn. The birds flitting to and fro, filled the air with rapturous strains; while the blue vault of heaven seemed to greet me with a smile.

As I stood on the ramparts of the garrison, I cast an anxious glance towards the spot from whence sprang all my joys of yesterday, and with rapture contemplated the approaching hour to meet the fair Eladia The morning was more than ordinarily pleasant, I looked with delight into the vale beneath; the herdsmen were approaching at a distance, with their numerous flocks of goats, in order to supply the inhabitants of the town with milk; while the tinkling of the bells that hung around their necks, reverberated from the neighbouring hills, giving effect to the magnificent scene around, and calculated to impress the mind with a variety of pleasing reflections. These delightful contemplations were, however, presently interrupted by the beating of the drums in the garrison; and, on turning around, I beheld the glittering bayonets already waving in the air. I hastily descended the ramparts, and having joined my corps, attended to the duties imposed by my situation; nevertheless, every moment I looked at my watch—the time, to me, moved slowly on, for I longed for the hour when I had again to meet Eladia. The period at length

arrived, and I entered the lonely path to await her coming, with anxious suspence; at last, I saw her wind her way down the path. I approached, and exclaimed in a deep low impassioned tone, "Eladia, adored Eladia! I have tarried long here, and methought the sun was less bright, the feathered songsters of the grove less musical, and the air less fragrant than it was wont; it was because they wanted the presence of my beautiful, and beloved, Eladia!" "Thou art an accomplished flatterer, Delgado," replied she, smiling, "but pardon me, I pray thee, this transgression, having kept thee waiting beyond the appointed hour." "Good God!" said I, while I embraced her, "thou hast to pardon me for having supposed I had thee to pardon. Oh! with what pleasure should I pardon thee, because I should then attach thy heart more to mine." "Oh! sir," said she, with a smile, "how prone is the heart of man to flatter; are not these compliments the effect of artifice?" I felt confused at this reply, and taking her hand, raised it to my lips, sighed deeply, and replied in a soft tone, "'tis the uncorrupted dictates of my heart; why, adored Eladia! shouldst thou doubt the sincerity of my soul." "Because the human heart is such an abyss," said she, "that, although, I have been, these many years, endeavouring to comprehend it, its recesses are not to be fathomed. The remarks of the captain of the Barcellos, corroborate my statement, inasmuch as thou hast left a fair lady, disconsolate at Lisbon." "By heaven! thou wrongst me, Eladia, I was never either false or perfidious; the

whole of the captain's remarks are a misinterpretation of my feelings, at losing the solacing care of a beloved parent, the regret ever attendant on a separation from near and dear connections, and the thoughts of being exiled from my native country ; together, with the uncertainty of my future prospects filled my mind inexpressibly with sorrow, and very naturally drew from me those sensations of inquietude, which the captain so very humorously contended were the effect of some violent passion."

"Then may I understand," replied Eladia, "that thou art free from any engagement at Lisbon?" "Free ! I swear from my soul, none ever interested my heart on the shores of Portugal." "What," continued she, "amidst all the beauties of Lisbon, that not one of them should appear worthy of attaching thee." "Many beauties may please me ; one by the possession of one virtue, and another by a different one, but thou alone art accomplished in every thing. Heaven has formed thee the most perfect of all his creatures." As I uttered the last sentence, I cast such a look of tenderness and expression on her, that she felt it penetrate to her soul. "Enough, said she, "this frank declaration I am disposed to believe, and I shall now speak freely. There are in human life, especially in social life, many troubles, respecting which, faith, between virtuous individuals, is extremely useful, and which an unlimited confidence would immediately terminate. I have faith in thee, Delgado, and it is pre-

cisely for this reason, that I shall now venture to unbosom some secrets of uneasiness, which have long interrupted my tranquillity.

"About two years ago, after many pressing invitations from my sister, and her worthy husband, the Intendant, I left the Castillo Mansion, in the province of New Castile, in Spain, for this country. Upon my arrival, I met with a very welcome reception from my sister, and her worthy husband, whom I had not seen for some time. They shewed me the most marked attention, and introduced me to all the most distinguished families at court; among which was the Megre family, relatives of the Intendant, who held possessions in a distant province from the Metropolis, but were then sojourning at court. The link of connection between the house of Megre, and the Intendant, produced a close intimacy between the two families; and, consequently, the civilities of polite life, required me frequently to hold converse with the Condessa de Megre, who possessed a frivolity and insipidity of character, without the least sensibility; but, withal, extremely ambitious. Her conversation chiefly consisted in eulogizing her family, or extoling the lieutenant, who had the misfortune to possess a very petulant temper, guided by a disposition entirely devoid of sensibility, and incapable of the least elevation of mind. I disliked him at first sight, nevertheless, the Condessa, lost no opportunity in representing her son as the most facetious, and the very glass of fashion;

every one esteeming it an honour to be acquainted with him. Indeed, continued she, he is the life and soul of every society ; and I am very happy, my dear Eladia, notwithstanding, his brilliant connections, that he has condescended to favour you with his peculiar attention.

Thunderstruck with her last sentence, I exclaimed, in a confused tone, " Condescend to favour me, madam !" " Yes, my dear," replied the Condessa, " however much you may feign to the contrary, yet you cannot be ignorant of my son's attachment ; and I am sure that you possess sufficient discernment to appreciate the advantages of an alliance with a family so highly distinguished ; as no union can be happy, but by the opulence and dignity which it may confer." " Indeed, madam," replied I, " whatever your son's pretences may be, they are not in accordance with my inclination, for I have no intention, for the present, of altering my condition ; and, casting a look of anger on the Condessa, I started up, and immediately left the room, not being able any longer to command my patience. From this time, I evaded, as much as possible, the society of the Condessa, and evinced more distance in my behaviour to the lieutenant, whom I never met except in the presence of my sister, or the Intendant. However, my seclusion became an object of uneasiness to the Megre's."

One morning there came a gentle tap, at the door of

my apartment. I opened it, and the Condessa presented herself before me. She saluted me with a very inquisitive smile, and casting her eyes hastily around the apartment, exclaimed, "what in the name of wonder can induce you, my dear Eladia, to immure yourself day after day, in this horrid apartment; the very idea is enervating, and enough to produce the most melancholy sensations. Really," continued she, "I cannot comprehend the motives which induce you always to fly from us, and to be so impenetrable to the wishes and intreaties of the Intendant." "What intreaties," replied I, a little surprised. "Why, I cannot suppose you are ignorant that your brother and sister are offended at the obstinacy with which you refuse them to make one of our society." I smiled, and replied, "you are in jest, madam; certainly my brother and sister could not allege such complaints against me." "O! yes," returned the Condessa, "and you cannot imagine how very uneasy the lieutenant has been; not one day has elapsed without his enquiring, why we are not to see you; and under the circumstances of your engagement with the lieutenant, it is very silly, my dear, to be so obstinate."

"My engagement, with the lieutenant," replied I, much surprised, "certainly, madam, you are under some very gross mistake, for I have never made any engagement whatever with the lieutenant, neither do I intend." "No, no," said the Condessa, with a mysterious smile, "you wish to conceal it. Very artful;

very artful indeed, my dear, I understand you," shaking her head, very knowingly, and unfurling her fan—'tis foolish of me to be so prying on matters which have already been settled between my son and you." "Good God," cried I, greatly excited, "What do you mean, madam—matters settled between your son and me?" "Yes, my dear," replied the Condessa, "for without your positive consent, you well know that your father would not have looked on the marriage as a settled affair." "The marriage,—my father," ejaculated I, while my eyes flashed fiercely, and fixing on the Condessa a look of incredulity, exclaimed, "You are in jest madam." "Nay," returned the Condessa, "'tis even so; your father, after mature consideration, has entered into a solemn contract with the lieutenant, which this letter (presenting me with one from my father,) will distinctly show; so that you are by his especial approval and consent, affianced to my son." My burning face was suddenly covered with a death-like paleness, I put my hand to my forehead, and said, in an assured tone, "Never, by heaven, never;" and immediately rushed from her presence.

Almost choked with choler, I hastily descended the stairs, and entering the garden gave vent to the feelings of my heart in a flood of tears. "Oh! God, my father," cried I, in the deepest emotion,—"what is this? Is it possible, that thou, who professeth to regard me with all the tenderness of paternal affection, and, couldst thou, after the rapturous manner in which

thou wast wont to press me to thy bosom, thus have dealt with me. Oh! heavens, No,—'tis impossible, I cannot believe that thou wouldst willingly lend thyself to these contrivances, without first obtaining the approbation of thy daughter. Oh! no,—No horror could be so great as that. Thou canst not have forgoten the days of our warmest affection—thou canst not wish to cast from thee that child thou didst once adore, and inhumanly force her to the embraces of a man whom she utterly abhors. Oh! no, thou must not —thou wilt not. I will imediately return to Spain, and throw myself at thy feet,—implore thee to revoke thy command; for sooner would I seek an asylum in the convent of Bom Sucesso, than receive the hand of a man, for whom I have the greatest aversion. Oh! never, never, death would be preferable to that.

In the deepest anguish, I walked to and fro in a covered walk, with my eyes cast down, without perceiving that I was observed by two females, who stood at a distance watching my motion. It was the Condessa, and my sister; the former alarmed at the manner in which I left my apartment, immediately acquainted my sister, who, notwithstanding, her approval of the alliance, was, nevertheless, fearful that the Condessa, had gone too far on the subject; and, therefore, in order to repair the imprudencies of the Condessa, whom she perceived had overstepped the bounds of delicacy, accompanied her to the garden, and were thus engaged. At length I lifted up my eyes and

saw them. I was about to retire, when my sister, leaving the Condessa, who re-entered the mansion, approached me." "You have been so wrapt in meditation, my dear sister," said she, with an air of deep concern, "that I am apprehensive of some unpleasant news from Spain, this morning by the packet, that I am a stranger to; but tell me, if I guess truly?" "Oh! my sister," replied I, "I am,—I am grieved,—I am vexed to death." "How so," enquired my sister, with quickness, "May I be permitted to ask what thus affects you." "Read that," said I, presenting her with my father's letter, "and tell me are you a stranger to the subject of which it purports?" A burning blush overspread her face, as she read the epistle; she hesitated to reply, but at length she said, "my dear, Eladia, if my memory be correct, I certainly understood lieutenant Megre, that you had previously approved of these measures." "I, my sister, no, never did I ever dream of such a thing; but I can easily penetrate the intentions of this man, and in order to frustrate the fool's design, I will immediately return to Spain: for rather would I suffer all the torrent of my father's displeasure, than be united to a man whom I can never love.

As I before informed the Condessa, I have never made any engagement with the lieutenant, or pledged any promise to his family; and, therefore, I leave you to judge, whether the conduct pursued by the Megres' is not an unwarrantable assurance, as also an outrage-

ous violation of the right of freewill, which I would not submit to, even were I inclined to favour the pretensions of the lieutenant." "You create many difficulties, for which I see no necessity," returned my sister. "The prospects of the lieutenant are brilliant, and you cannot object to his descent." "But I object to his person,—his prosecutions are odious." "And your father," replied she, "will you disregard his command?" "Even that also, if my father has given his consent, that must be his own fault, and he must take the consequence, I have no business with it; and I do not consider myself obliged to be answerable for his engagements, by the sacrifice of my happiness for life; and, therefore, I will immediately return to Spain, and entreat my father." "Nay," replied my sister, "you cannot think of leaving us thus. Would you really have the imprudence, my dear Eladia, at this inclement season, to cross the Atlantic, and thereby expose yourself to the dangers of a tempestuous sea. I am sure neither the Intendant, nor myself, can willingly suffer you to rush upon an expedient so rash and pregnant with evil; besides, a postscript here very explicitely states, that you are to use your own discretion, as to the time of solemnizing the contract; consequently, you are under no immediate compulsion, but left to the entire exercise of your own pleasure. With this proviso, then, let me intreat you to remain with us, at least, until a more favourable season. Moreover, think Eladia, of the anxiety of your friends, while travelling amidst such imminent danger."

"Any fate, my dear sister," replied I, "to me would be preferable to the one my father proposes, and I am determined to choose that rather than become the bride of a man who is so truly hateful to me." "Well," replied my sister, "I cannot account for your aversion; certain it is, that the lieutenant loves you; and he possesses a fine person, a pleasing voice, and just turned five and twenty, in the full tide of fortune." "For the love of God, my dear sister," cried I, "mention him no more." She made a sign of consent, and left me to give some necessary orders to a domestic. Thus freed from her importunities, I hastened again to my apartment. I, however, presently learnt from my maid, that a consultation had taken place in the saloon, between the Condessa, my sister, and the lieutenant; in which the Condessa appeared highly out of humour, and had declared her intention to immediately quit the capital. A secret hope that the lieutenant would also accompany his mother, diffused a ray of joy over my mind. At dinner, the Condessa appeared sullen and chagrined; the lieutenant distant and peevish; but the Intendant was more than ordinarily pleasant. He strove to amuse, and upon retiring from the table very politely requested that I would grant him an audience of a few minutes. I slightly bowed, he required no other answer.

Leading me to a seat, he placed himself in one near me, and began, with his accustomed good nature, a long discourse on the subject of my father's letter;

dwelling much on the impropriety of disobedience, the prelude to inconceivable evils ; and representing how many have been indiscreetly ensnared, by trusting too much to their own judgment, and rejecting the wiser counsels of others. He, continued, "There will occur many especial occasions of paying great reverence to the judgment of parents, more particularly in selecting a suitable match for their children, in order to secure to them that opulence and dignity, so essential to their happiness. This, Eladia, probably induced your father to a compliance with the proposition of the Megre's, and not from any absolute command, or rash dominion over your person ; but, on the contrary, from a heart bursting with paternal solicitude." "I believe, sir," replied I, "hitherto I have in all things obeyed my father's command, but on the present important occasion, whereon rests all my future happiness, I certainly claim an undoubted right to assume some small portion of independence ; and I value not riches and high birth, so much as virtue and agreeableness. Those who marry for a title and estate more than the person, seldom have any happy days in marriage, and then the main end of it is lost ; for if the marriage state be begun with sacrilegious hypocrisy, in vowing to love where you like not, it must be wretched." "Certainly," replied the Intendant, "a marriage under such circumstances, cannot promise any felicity ; but be not, Eladia, so rash as not first to examine how much it may be to your interest, to follow the advice of your best and wisest counsellors ; for, however much

you may trust to your own opinion, yet, you may with more safety, follow the advice of your parent." "Sir," replied I, "sensible of my duty in this respect, I would gladly be guided by my father's wishes in all things, without exception ; but, on the present occasion, neither the counsel of my friends, nor the solicitude of those from whom I derived my existence, can have the power to silence the voice of conscience, or assuage those feelings which have hitherto influenced my determination." "Oh, well, my dear Eladia," replied he, "since the advice of your friends can avail nothing, follow your own inclination ; but, at least, allow me to prevail on you to give up the idea of returning to Spain. Reflect, my dear, for a moment, on the danger you would be exposed to, without any urgent necessity ; as I assure you, that under my roof, nothing shall, in future, interrupt your tranquillity."

After some further conversation on this subject, I, at length, relinquished my determination to quit Rio. In the course of a few days, the Condessa, according to her previous declaration, took her departure from the capital ; but, I leave you to imagine my mortification, on finding that the lieutenant still remained behind ; however, notwithstanding the promise of the Intendant, I never went down, but when they were all assembled together ; and when there, paid not the least attention to the compliments with which he constantly addressed me. On one occasion, as I retired from the saloon, he arose, and endeavoured to prevail

on me to grant him an audience, but I declined his request, and precipitately quitted his presence. Since that time, he has never dared to intrude further his importunities; and, although a resident at the mansion, yet, unable to dismiss the subject from his mind, he has ever remained sullen and strange in his manner; which, doubtless, thou wilt have observed."

I replied, "The conduct of the lieutenant has more than once surprised me; nevertheless, I was willing to attribute it to a natural imbecility, until a recent adventure discovered to me the real cause of his perturbation. I pity the unfortunate gentleman, and I confess, that I have felt deeply on the subject." "Then, I suppose," said she, "in your opinion, I ought to marry him. "I, madam," said I, confused, "what am I, that I should give an opinion, on an affair of so much consequence—thou distressest me by the question—may thou be happy—may thou enjoy thy own wishes." I sighed, she turned away,—I stepped forward, and, trembling, caught her hand, pressed it to my lips, and continued, "since the fair Eladia avows a dislike to the lieutenant—since she condescends to honour me—continue to think well of me, it will excite me to deserve it; if, perchance, I am removed from this place, the remembrance of thy goodness will be a cordial to my heart." She blushed, looked down, and was apparently embarrassed, which became every moment more visibly indicative of those feelings of affection, taking possession of her heart;

while I endeavoured to conceal the joy I felt. Suddenly she recovered both her voice and courage. "My opinion of thee, Delgado," said she, "is fixed and settled, but our correspondence, must of necessity, be kept in secret." I embraced her; the myrtle trembled in the breeze—the sweet flowers breathed their perfume upon the air; but, sweeter far, was the vow of fidelity until death, that sealed our parting moment. We seperated, and I returned to the garrison, without a single cloud to darken the serene sky of my felicity.

Alas, these feelings were but of momentary continuance; an order had arrived at the garrison, to remove a division of the troops, to the passes, in the province of St. Vincent, and my company being one of the selected; I received this intelligence under feelings of depression inexpressible. My heart palpitated, a tremulousness seized my frame, and my countenance depicted the agitation of my mind. The commanding officer immediately remarked it, and inquired what had happened. I complained of indisposition, and endeavoured to conceal my agony. He desired me to retire; I obeyed the mandate, but it only augmented my grief in private, meditating on a seperation from Eladia; whom I was about to leave, perhaps forever; or, at least, from every hope of a correspondence, as the interception of letters, would immediatly lead to a discovery of our attachment, and, consequently, place us in circumstances the most disagreeable. Thus influ-

enced by my feelings, I passed the night in the most tormenting anxiety; and, on the following day, sought to communicate with Eladia on the subject.

I approached the thicket in trembling haste, and casting my eye around, saw the fair Eladia, descending a small eminence; her look was calm and sweet; her eye was full of sublime thought, and there was a loveliness in the snowy purity of her cheek, contrasted with the living damask of her lip, that seemed to refine and brighten the aspect as she approached. She raised her head, and shook back the ringlets that lay upon her temples; while her soul breathed its delight in the expression of her countenance. I looked tenderly upon her, extending my arms towards her; and was about to press her to my palpitating heart; when suddenly she stopped, examined my countenance minutely, and exclaimed, "Good heavens! Delgado, how thou art altered; thy eyes are quite heavy and dull—thou dost not look like thyself. Prithee, tell me, from what cause proceeds this sudden change." "Oh! my celestial Eladia," cried I, in the deepest emotion, "under the shade of yesterday's sun, my heart was filled with rapturous delight; but, alas, his declining rays spread a dismal darkness over all my joys; fate's cold decree ordains that we must speedily seperate—duty calls me hence." "What, art thou going to leave us," she anxiously enquired; while the sudden and visible change in her countenance, bespoke the agitation of her feelings. "Yes, my adored

Eladia, the indispensable duties of my calling, require that I remove to the wild mountains of the west." "And, amidst those wilds, thou wilt forget me," she faintly sighed." "Nay, charge me not so, sweet Eladia," pressing her rapturously to my bosom, as I repeated these words.

" Objeto tenero
" del primo affeto,
" Com' questa anima
" t' escorder a."

" Thy image will be forever imprinted on my heart."

I sighed, she reclined her head on my bosom, sank into silence and despondency. It was a moment of deep trial ; the agonizing feelings of her heart moistened my face with the tears of despair. I endeavoured by the most tender entreaties, and redoubled promises of fidelity, to appease the commotion of her soul, but in vain ; her feeble heart sank rapidly, and her cheek became deadly pale. I could bear it no longer, it was too much for my impassioned heart,— I strained her to my breast ; kissed of the pearly tear that rolled upon her cheek, and fearless of every consequence swore that ere the sun should hide his shining brow beneath the western cloud, I would make her my bride. Recovering her tranquillity, she regarded this step as too precipitate ; but after a moment's consideration she gave me her hand. I pressed it within my own. No language can express the tran-

sports I experienced, and conducting her towards the house of a pious father, on whom I could rely ; the nuptial knot was tied in the presence of an old domestic. After the ceremony, Eladia, with the look of an angel about to bestow happiness on the world, extended her arms to embrace me for the first time, and placed her face against my palpitating heart, "Delgado," said she, in a low voice and blushing, "I am now thine, before God." "Eladia," replied I, embracing her, "we are now, and ever will be, one in his presence." Our hearts were overwhelmed with sublime impressions, and receiving the blessing of the pious father, we each retired to our respective abodes.

Without the blessing of our relations,—without the consent of those from whom we derived our existence, without protectors, and without fortune ; yet I was raised above all the monarchs on earth. The whole garrison appeared renovated with splendid rays af congratulatory manifestations ; the sun reflected with more than usual brightness upon the ramparts ; the troops fulfilled their duties with greater expertness ; the band issued forth in one of their heart stirring airs, and all seemed to unite with me in one continued strain of unbounded felicity. In the evening I stole from my companions, and repaired to the palace of the Intendant, in order to enjoy the society of my beloved bride. I found her seated with the rest of the family, who rose to receive me with their usual cordiality. Arabella, smiled graciously, and complimented me on

the improved state of my health; remarking at the same time, the happy turn the distressing malady had taken, which had so long afflicted Eladia. Her health and spirits had much improved, and there was every hope entertained of a speedy convalescence. Eladia smiled, and presenting me a chair, I seated myself near her, and the Intendant changed the subject to the removal of the troops; in which lieutenant Megre joined with more than usual cheerfulness. He remarked that every young trooper, ought to breathe for a while the mountain air, in order to fit him for the more intricate services of the state; while Carlos, on the contrary, regretted that I would have so soon to leave the capital. A general conversation ensued, and the evening past in the greatest convivality.

My visits were now more frequent to the palace, during the interval of the marching of the troops, and I had several opportunities of conversing with my beloved wife. We concerted together on my departure, and it was finally agreed, that our union should be kept concealed for a season, and that she would remain as usual at the palace. Having made these arrangements, I felt my spirits greatly revive, in the hope that an opportunity would soon occur, whereby, I might advance my condition in the army, and thus be enabled to receive my wife, with the honour due to her noble birth. These ideas had considerable influence over my actions; they kindled within my breast, an insatiable desire for honour. I began to

look forward to events that might realize my anticipations, and I was now as eager to depart, as I at first was unwilling to leave the capital. The evening preceeding my departure, I took leave of the Intendant, his lady, and the rest of the family, except my adored Eladia, who had previously retired, I hastened to meet her in the covered alley, and slowly proceeding towards the gate, we tenderly embraced each other, with feelings of the deepest emotion, as we bade the final adieu.

With the early dawn the troops assembled ; and we pursued our journey to the west, cheered by the feathered tribe, whose lively strains arose in full succession. As we passed the plains, so beautifully chequered with woods and meadows ; here and there appeared a solitary residence surrounded with the luxurance of nature ; and in the distance peeped from the trees the majestic towers of the monastery ; while large groups of rusticks slowly pursued their way towards the sacred edifice, in order to pay their morning devotions. Several hamlets caught the eye in various directions ; and at length appeared the dreary mountains. The shrill yelp of the shepherds dogs gave notice of our approach, and we entered the pass amidst the gaze of the mountaineers. The winding of the stupendous and barren rocks greatly impeded our progress, and prolonged our march some days ere we reached our destined quarters ; which lay in a chasm at the foot of a narrow pass, surrounded by steep and

irregular mountains, from whence the murmurs of resistless torrents tumbled in silvery columns from the overhanging summits, and rolling in foaming currents along the valley. These were diversified by gentle acclivities, scattered over with tufts of fragrant herbage, affording food to the mountain goats, and enlivening the solitary aspect of the surrounding scenery.

We had scarcely, however, got settled in our quarters, before our services were required to quell a formidable insurrectoin of the mountaineers, who assailed us from the precipices, and committed a variety of depredations on the several establishments. The troops ascended the pass under a shower of stones from the rebels, but having gained the heights they charged them with great bravery, and a smart skirmish ensued, in which my troop was peculiarly situated; divided from the rest of the corps, and encircled by a large band of rebels, we, however, gallantly forced a breech, and obliged our opponents to fly. The mountain resounding with the cry of salve se quem poder. Thus, having completely subdued them, we returned to our quarters, and were enabled to perform our several duties without any further molestation. This circumstance gained me the esteem of the commanding officer, and I shortly afterwards received promotion.

I ventured to write my wife on this pleasing subject; and all continuing tranquil, I frequently ramb-

led the mountains in order to gratify the imagination, and to muse on an unlimited felicity in the future society of Eladia; but alas, on one occasion having rambled too far, and dwelling long on this all interesting subject, the dark clouds of night began to reach the mountain tops ere I thought of my situation; and hastening from the spot, I proceeded in the direction of my quarters. But the night advancing too rapidly I lost my way, and became suddenly surrounded by insurmountable difficulties. Barren rocks' and frightful precipices hung their gigantic brows over my head, bidding defiance to further progress. I hollaed, but nothing could I hear save the reverberating of my own voice on the rocks above. I sought for a pass, but in vain.

I endeavoured to retrace my steps, but the confused state of my mind led me into further difficulties among briers and fragments of rocks, until, at length, with great difficulty, I scaled an eminence; and searching dilligently found a narrow path leading in a southerly direction. This gave me hopes of again reaching my quarters, and I hastened along, but I had not gone many paces, when I heard the sound of footsteps rapidly approaching. I halted, irresolute whether to proceed or retire, but I was instantly discovered, and several men rushed upon me. "Hold," cried I, "unhand me," for they had seized my hands and sword. "Nay," exclaimed one of the villians, "thou seekest to resist us in vain, in troth we have long waited thee,

and should ill requite our good master to let thee go." "What master," I hastily enquired, "and who in the person that authorises you to commit this outrage." "Thou wilt know that hereafter," returned the villian, "for the present be content, and proceed with us, or thy life shall answer for it." They bound my hands, placed me in the midst; and each drawing a pistol from his girdle, we commenced to wind the mountain, passing over many fragments that lay in our path, and frequently in danger of being precipitated.

The moon was struggling through masses of black clouds, and only at intervals shed a faint uncertain light. After a protracted journey, we, at length, reached the foot of the pass, where a vehicle was in waiting; and having thrust me in, they mounted their steeds and proceeded at full speed. We had not proceeded far, when a heavy peal of thunder reverberated above our heads, and the rain began to descend in torrents; the storm increased in violence, until it became truly terrific; the forked lightning flashed its fury in the heavens. "You may proceed," said one of the villians, "but by saint Francisco, I will not go one jot further than the hut on the forest, till the storm is over." "Psha," cried a second, "what is the use of thou being so confoundedly obstinate; if we tarry our prisoner will escape, and we might as well blow out our brains as to return to the lieutenant without him." "We will risk all that," said another, "here is the hut, come, let us draw up." The men now a-

lighted at the door of the hut, and a tall slatternly woman of most disagreeable appearance opened the door, welcomed our arrival, and beckoning us with her finger to follow her, conducted us to a small room; and then observing me attentively for a moment, cast upon one of the villians a mysterious smile, asked in what way she could serve them. "By bringing us a stoup of liquor, to warm us within, good mother," replied one of the villians. "Six hundred millions of devils, but we have got such a drenching without, from which in all probability we shall not recover for many a day." "Psha," cried the woman, "a weighty shake from the fair hand of the Condessa, will prove a healing balm," laughing and shaking her head as she retired. "Plague on thee," replied another, taking the goblet and lifting it to his head, "what a passion the lieutenant was in after he read the letter." "Yes, and I fancy thou wouldst not have been much less had it been thy case," rejoined the first speaker. These remarks astonished me beyond all description, and I was scarcely able to repress my feelings when I heard them. I ventured, however, to ask the ruffians to explain the reasons for my detention; but they declined to comply with my request, and the storm having somewhat abated, they again thrust me into the vehicle and proceeded.

The mysterious proceedings of these men, occupied my mind, and gave rise to a number of conflicting ideas, as we travelled over the rugged heath. They

had mentioned a lieutenant and Condessa—but who could those persons be; or, what interest could they have, in sending forth a lawless gang to seize my person, and drag me hence as a criminal, I was unable to develope. The night was far advanced: the heavy clouds that before obscured the sky, had passed away, and scarce a single breeze disturbed the peaceful slumbers of the forest, as we entered a dense wood; and passing rapidly on, we soon arrived at the gates of a stately mansion. One of the ruffians made a signal at the gate, which was answered by the porter from within, who immediately opened the gate, and the ruffian having whispered to him a few words, he thereupon retired, but presently returned with a bunch of large keys, and a small lamp, which he gave into the hands of the ruffian. They then removed me from the vehicle, and conducted me across the court, to a narrow passage, which led us to another court, on the east side of which stood a round tower; approaching the door, they with some difficulty opened the rusty lock, and entering the loathsome building, descended some stairs until we came to another door, which they also opened, and thrusting me within, placed the lamp and a jug of water on a small table which stood in the corner of the apartment, and immediatly left me to my own reflections; locking and bolting the door as they retired.

Incarcerated alone, in a dismal cell, and excluded from the sound of human consolation, no language

could adequately express the perturbated state of my feelings; and after exhausting my mind with conjecture, I, at length, fell into a profound sleep; from which I never awoke, until the noise of opening the massy and creaking doors aroused me, when immediatly appeared in my cell, a man with some food, who gave me the following letter. "Base wretch, thou art now within my power, and where I to plunge a dagger into thy heart, it would only be thy desert; but, I choose rather to avenge my injured honour, by thy perpetual imprisonment, in order that my insatiable soul may feed upon thy wretchedness; and mock thy cunning contrivances to subvert my claim to Eladia, which no power upon earth shall prevent me from enjoying; while thou mayest contemplate her charms in thy solitary abode, the nearest title thou wilt ever have to that unlimited felicity in her future society.

Joze Francisco de Megre.

I dropt this epistle—stood aghast—my eyes protruding their sockets, and my heart swelling with agony. I tore the hair from head; cried aloud for liberty to avenge myself upon the villain. (Here Henrique started up, and placing his hand upon his dirk, while the tears stood in his eyes, said, "Oh, that I had been there, to plunge this dirk into his accursed heart.") "My keeper alarmed, locked me up, and hastened for assistance; on his return, I had thrown myself upon the bench, my heart overcharged

to express. A wild delirium had seized my brain, and I made frequent attempts to dash out my brains against the walls of my cell, but I was timely secured from doing any violence to myself, and I lay for many weeks in a state of unconscisousness of every object around me ; except at momentary intervals of returning reason, which presented to me afresh, the abominable monster ; and after uttering the most vehement cries of vengeance, again relapsed into my former state. At last, I recovered my faculties, but my nerves were so extremely weak, that I frequently imagined I saw Eladia struggling with the hateful Megre, and would suddenly burst into loud and desponding lamentations, which completely overclouded my reason. However, as my strength progressively returned, the hope of escape sprang into my mind; and, accordingly, I began to examine the apartment, but after a minute examination, I, unfortunately, found no means to afford me the slightest hope ; and from this time, my mind sunk into a sullen stupidity.

In this state I continued for a number of years, without ever beholding any human face, save that of my keeper, whose forbidden countenance corresponded with the austerity of his manners. He never spoke to me but in a tone of severity, and like to the shepherd's dog, faithful to his charge, and would turn upon me a look of scorn, whenever I attempted to court his friendship ; so that all my endeavours to gain the slightest information, or touch his humanity,

proved ineffective, and I was constrained to relinquish every hope of regaining my liberty—to life lost, and totally undone. I wept, and groaned in the anguish of my soul. Oh! my wife—my beloved Eladia—my soul's companion, where art thou ? Weeping and disconsolate ; drawing in sobs, the life blood from thy heart. O horror ! horror ! ye massive bolts give way, that I may quickly fly to avenge the author of our woes ; but, alas, there's no such mercy for me, I must run misery's extremest round, and this gloomy dungeon must be my living grave. Feelings undescribable continued to torture my mind, as every successive day rolled on, yet the infinite goodness of God sustained me ; and my mind gradually sank into a state of gloomy inertion. Frequently envying the little fly, that entered the grate of my cell, and cheerfully buzzing around, would again exit into its native element, accompanied by a deep sigh from my overpressed heart, and all would again subside into a breathless stillness ; until the refreshing coolness of the evening, aroused the croaking of the frogs of some neighbouring water. There hoarse sound much annoyed my feeble nerves, and increased the gloominess of my prison ; insomuch, that my blood freezed with horror, whenever I thought of my dreary incarceration, and seperation from every earthly pleasure ; and I would fervently implore the most high God, to snap the brittle thread of life, and remove me hence beyond the reach of man's voracious grasp, to regions free from pain and sorrow. As I traversed the room,

one morning, with my arms folded, buried in deep and painful thought, the doors of my cell were suddenly thrown open, and a stranger entered, and advancing, placed my food as customary upon the table; when about to retire, he caught a glance of my face, and started back—stood amazed, and for a moment, gazed intently; and at length exclaimed, "Oh, my God, it is certainly the good master," and immediatly bursting into tears, fell at my feet. I stretched forth my hand to raise him from the ground, when, to my utter astonishment, although age, together with hard slavery, had made visible ingress upon his features, I instantly recognized in him poor Sampi, the negro, whose leg I had bound up on board of the Barcellos. No language can express the mixture of joy and grief, that emanated from the heart of this poor slave, at this unexpected meeting; he fervently embraced my knees, while the tears streamed from his eyes, as he beheld my wretched state. After our surprise had in some measure subsided, he related to me a number of incidental occurences of his captivity, since the time I last saw him; and that some eight years ago he had been bought by the Megre's, and, along with many others, employed upon the estate; but, lately, he had been removed to the mansion for general purposes, aad owing to a sudden indisposition of my keeper, he was that morning, under strict injunctions of silence, intrusted with his charge. But, continued he, I must hasten away, or suspicion may arise from my long absence; I will see you again to morrow, at this hour, when we

will further converse ; and, after a tender embrace, he left me to my own reflections, on this unexpected occurence ; or rather intervention of divine providence.

I felt fully persuaded, that divine agency had brought about this pleasing circumstance ; and, in consequence, my spirits greatly revived, in the hope, that through the instrumentality of this poor slave, I might be enabled to make my escape. I, therefore, anxiously awaited the morning, in order to commune with my new friend. I arose early, and listened attentively for the opening of the doors ; at length, the well sound of the massive bolts struck my ear, and presently, Sampi entered my cell. "Save you, my good master," said he, "you look something better this morning, than you were yesterday. Heaven be praised for it, and here I have brought you a little of something, which will nourish your drooping heart," drawing from under his vest a bottle of wine, and a few other dainties, he had been able to procure. Tears involuntarily gushed into my eyes, as he spread them upon the table, and with an anxious solicitude, desired me to eat. I thanked him, under feelings of deep emotion, for I was much affected to behold such exalted friendship ; and after partaking of his present, I made several inquiries relative to my confinement. He informed me, that the mansion was situate in the valley adjoining the forest, and was seldom visited by the family, except on particular occasions, when their sojourn was generally of a temporary nature ;

as the mansion, although large and stately to appearance, was, nevertheless, defficient in those requisite inducements to retirement; being in a dilapidated state, and surrounded by wild and irregular mountains, ragged with mis-shapen rocks, and yawning with subterraneous caves, whose sides arrest and condense the vapours as they float along, and send them gradually abroad by trickling streams. Such dreary scenery was contrary to the taste of the present Conde, whose mind was too much built up with the pageantry of the metropolis, to think of a residence in the retired seclusion of this vale. He had, however, recently visited the mansion, and after settling some necessary affairs, immediatly returned to the east.

"And the lieutenant," I enquired, "was he with him?" "Oh, no! my good master, he has long since been dead." "Dead, do you say, Sampi, how was that?" "Nay, I cannot tell, but there are strange stories abroad respecting his death, which happened shortly after the demise of his mother, the Condessa." "And is she also dead?" ejaculated I. "Truly she is, my good master, and, consequently, the present Conde, his younger brother, succeeded to the family title and estates." "Thou surprisest me, Sampi, and yet more, that I am a prisoner after the demise of those haughty overbearing personages, through whose treachery I have so long suffered incarceration, and deprivation. But what are the stories respecting the death of the lieutenant?" "Various are the stories," returned he,

"some say that pride took possession of his wits, and in a fit of insanity he swallowed a poisonous drug. But others assert that it was owing to a beautiful young lady in the Metropolis, with whom he was passionately in love. He had, it is said, gained the approbation of her parents to his proposal; and all things were in a state of forwardness towards the hymen of bliss, when secretely she united with a man of low degree, which so mortified the lieutenant, that he determined upon revenge. And, it is said, the choler of the Condessa, on hearing of the event, was raised to so great a height, that she exclaimed, suddenly, and in a frightful manner,—" O God; the villian; the abominable monster; the impudent flirt;" and ran from room to room, uttering the most vehement reproaches upon her son; accusing him of want of energy, and ringing her hands, in the most violent emotion, cried, "avenge, my son, the insult to our noble house, or I will disown thee for ever." " How, my mother," enquired the son. " How? thou idiot," returned the mother, "drag the traitor to the field and dispatch him with thine own hand." Shortly afterwards the consort of this beautiful lady disappeared, and it was currently reported that he had been dispatched by the hand of an assassin; upon which the lieutenant again renewed his efforts to win the fair lady's affections; but he found her impenetrable to all his insinuations. She constantly repulsed him with so much contempt, that he at length formed a scheme to possess her by violence; but he found so many obsta-

cles in the way of his project, that after many fruitless attempts, he retired to a mansion in the east of the province, where he was found one morning in his bed a lifeless corpse. I must now retire, good master, I will see you again presently." "Nay, stay Sampi," replied I, grasping his hand in the deepest emotion, "I have something to tell thee,—thou seest in me the miserable wretch, and persecuted husband of that beautiful lady thou has just mentioned;" and groaning in the anguish of my heart, I fell upon his neck and wept. Never was man more amazed than he was at this intelligence, and throwing off all restraint he fervently embraced me, wiped off the tear that rolled upon my cheek, and declared that his life was at my service. "Speak only, my good master," continued he, "what can I do to serve you?" "Oh, Sampi," replied I, "assist me if thou canst to regain my liberty." He paused for a moment. "The task," said he, "is difficult and extremely hazardous; nevertheless, I will attempt it at the risk of my life, which is only a drug under my present bondage, and ere long my old worn out frame must return to its mother earth from whence no debt of gratitude can ever be returned. I owe, my good master, an obligation of humanity which all the humble services of a poor Negro slave can never adequately repay. Command me, then, my good master, in all things, only promise that my fate may be joined to yours." "Thou shalt share Sampi, my fortune. I will never desert thee, neither shalt thou be injured while I have life." "Enough, my good

master," replied he, "to night, when all in the mansion are retired to rest, I will visit you again, until then, adieu."

As soon as my honest friend had left me, I fell into a train of the most pleasing imaginations, illuminated by the hope of again beholding my beloved Eladia; and my heart beat in anxious suspense for the approaching hour of Sampi's return, for I was persuaded he was the happy instrument of heaven sent for my release. I listened most attentively for the well known sound of the massive bolts; but, alas, the solemn knell of the mansion clock struck twelve, and yet Sampi had not returned. My heart misgave, and a thousand fears took possession of my feeble nerves. I paced the floor of my cell in hurried steps, and was almost frantic with a multiplicity of conjectures, when suddenly I heard the welcome sound of the outer bolts gently withdrawn, and Sampi crept softly into my cell. "You will doubtless have thought me long in coming, my good master," said he, "Now, no time is to be lost; here is a sword that I have procured, which will serve for the one you have lost, and this brace of pistols, drawing from under his vest, will be useful in case of a surprise; put them in your belt, my good master." "Are all in the mansion quiet, Sampi," inquired I. "They are all gone to rest," replied he, "but we must proceed softly, as we must pass through the porter's chamber, though we have little to fear here, as I have had him at a house of entertainment

this evening, where, making him pretty merry with a variety of liquors, I proposed to drink another bottle together when all in the mansion were in bed; while he, thinking all was safe, gladly complied; and I plied him so home, that he at last fell dead drunk upon the bed on which we were both sitting. I then put my hand into his pocket and drew from thence the key of the inner gate; but as the steward always keeps the keys of the outer gates, I have contrived a rope ladder, by which we may ascend the wall, and thus make our exit."

We then left my long and hateful residence, and softly proceeded towards the chamber of the porter, whom we found in a profound sleep. We passed on with silence and caution through a long gallery, descended the stairs in the same manner, we crossed the Hall in profound silence, and hardly dared to breathe lest we should be overheard. We found some difficulty in opening one of the folding doors, which at last we accomplished, but a sudden gust of wind forced it to with a great clash. We were again in jeopardy at another door, and greatly alarmed at the sound of voices, and apparent movement in the mansion, as if the servants had been aroused by the noise. We, however, with some difficulty, succeeded in opening it, and gaining the court, Sampi opened the inner gate with the key, and hastening towards the outer walls, we distinguished lights moving in various parts of the mansion Sampi, speedily arrainged the ladder,

and we were quickly on the other side of the wall. We ran with the utmost speed into the thickest part of the wood, and then by a narrow path gained the forest. The morning breeze wafted gently over the dreary wilds, and shed its invigorating influence over my exhausted strength; I inhaled the precious draught with greediness, and hastened forward with redoubled speed. We soon reached the summit of a high hill, where, halting for a moment, we listened in fearful apprehension of pursuit, but all was silent, not a sound was to be heard; save the shrill shriek of the night bird.

On descending the hill, we pursued our journey greatly impeded by the underwood of the forest. However, as the grey streaks of the morning were stealing across the skies, we discovered a path which brought us, after a long and fatiguing journey, at the close of the day, to a small house on the skirts of the forest. It was surrounded by high and spreading trees, which scarcely permitted the light of day to visit it; and from its humble appearance betokened the slender circumstances of its inhabitants. Nevertheless, the sight of this little dwelling encouraged us to hope that under its roof we might find a shelter for the night; and in this we were not dissappointed; for, notwithstanding, the furious manner in which we were assailed by the house dog, a venerable old man appeared at the door, whose head was silvered over with years, who, after snubbing the animal, enquired our busi-

ness. "We are wayfaring men, aged father," said I, "and being greatly fatigued with our journey, desire to rest under your roof for the night." "Ah, sir," replied the old man, raising up his head, and observing me attentively, "our humble dwelling affords but poor accommodation for gentlemen; indeed, we scarcely ever behold any human face, and are somewhat surprised at the approach of strangers, so far from any public road at this late hour. Nevertheless," continued he, "you are welcome to such as we have, enter my friend." And, turning to his wife desired her to fan up the fire on the hearth, and provide some refreshment for the strangers. The good old matron hastened to obey the mandate, and presently raised up a good fire; while the old man dusted down a bench that served for a seat, and desired us to be seated.

"I apprehend," said the old man, "you are strangers to this wild wilderness, and must have lost your way among the mountains." "We are strangers, my good father," replied I, "and are travelling to the metropolis." "The holy virgin be with you, my friends," said he, "but you are strangely out of your way for the metropolis, from whence came you?" I was somewhat embarressed at this question, and looked at Sampi, who instantly replied, "from beyond the western mountains." "Ah," said the old man, I have reason to curse the western mountains, it was there my sorrows first began." "How was that, my good father?" enquired I. "Well draw around the

hearth, my friends," said he, "and I will tell you, although my story is somewhat long." "You must understand that in my early days I was a herdsman, and followed a flock on the western mountains, where I married my wife. She was the daughter of an herdsman, and as nimble as the goats she followed ; often upon the green sward seated together, while our flocks were feeding in the peaceful tranquillity of the valley, would we tune our guitars in all the innocent rusticity of nature, until the sun seemed to repose with lingering delight upon the hills around, and forwarned us of the hour to retire to the fold. But, alas, this sweet tranquillity, and mutual felicity, was soon to be severed asunder by the hand of persecution. One day as I wandered over the mountains after the flock, and entering a narrow path I seated myself by the side of a tree, when my attention was arrested by a small packet lying upon the ground. I took it up, and examining it, found it contain writings which, as I was no scholar, I could not understand ; however, I put them into my pocket ; and, examining the place more minutely, I also found a handkerchief. Well, thought I, this, will be of use and on my return to the fold showed my wife what I had found. "The handkerchief," said she, "is a good one, and will serve you to wear : but the papers are of no value, you can throw them into the old box." Accordingly, I thrust them into the box.

On the following morning, I put around my neck,

the handkerchief which I had found, and proceeded as usual with the flock. I had not proceeded far, when I was met by a party of soldiers, who had come from the neighbouring passes, and appeared to be in search of some one. They questioned me as to what part of the mountains I had travelled, and whether I had seen an officer on that, or the day past, among the mountains? I replied, "that I had not seen either officer or soldier on that, or the past day." Upon which I observed, that the officer of the troop cast upon me a scrutinizing eye, and stepping close to me, took hold of the border of my handkerchief, and, after examining it, said, "How came you by this handkerchief?" "I told him I had found it on the previous day." "I dare say you did," replied he, collaring me, "you are a murderer, for here is the name of Delgado on the border of the handkerchief. Seize the assassin," cried he, to the soldiers, "and bear him hence to the quarters." The soldiers laid hold of me, notwithstanding all my declarations of innocence; and, binding my hands, led me forth to the quarters, where I was examined by the commanding officer. He declared, that the handkerchief was sufficient to criminate me; and, after urging me to confess what I had done with the body of the murdered officer, ordered a detachment of the troops to convey me to the metropolis. On reaching the metropolis, I was again examined by the officers of justice; who, on hearing of the circumstance of the fatal handkerchief, immediatly denounced me guilty of the murder; and, forthwith ordered me

to be imprisoned in the common gaol, during the remainder of my life.

A neighbouring herdsman, who had seen me in the custody of the soldiers, acquainted my poor wife with the circumstance ; and, after a time, she found her way to the metropolis, and with scalding tears furrowing down her cheeks, visited the grate of my prison. Oh ! my friends, what a meeting was it ; we wept in the bitterest agony of soul—lamented our condition in the most poignant manner that human nature was capable of giving utterance ; but, all availed nothing. My doom was cast, the foul crime of murder stained my name, and all the stings of pointed scorn thickly surrounded me, with the hoarse rough shout of dissolute imprecations ; not a single whisper of consolation caught my ear, save my poor wife, whose indefatigable exertions were employed to ameliorate my wretched state. She sought for lodgings near my prison ; and procuring employment among some kind hearted citizens, daily visited me with such little comforts, as she was able to procure. A number of years passed over in this wretched state ; until my wife, having made known my case to a citizen of powerful influence, with whom she was employed, he undertook to solicit, and obtained my pardon, and I was accordingly liberated on the payment of a stipulated sum, which my wife procured by subscription in the town. We then left the metropolis, and proceeded again to the mountains, and from thence to this little cottage ;

where, by the assistance of a few friends, we gathered a small flock, and have since resided."

At the conclusion of the old man's story, I felt deeply distressed in spirit, and rising, said, "My good old father, I have listened to your narrative with the deepest interest, and I feel most sensibly affected, at the trials you have had to bear under an unjust prosecution. You are no assassin, my good father, in that case, you have not imbrued your hands in blood; for behold in me, the very same Delgado, whose handkerchief you found." "The holy and blessed virgin," shrieked the old matron, hiding her face in her apron, "its an apparition; the murdered man appeareth to accuse thee of thy guilt, with the devil at his side," transfigurating Sampi's dark visage into an imp from the lower regions; and, throwing herself upon the floor, bawled lustily on all the saints in heaven, to protect them. It was some time before I could make her sensible of her error, and convince her of the reality of our existence as natural beings. We, however, raised her from the ground, and the old man recovering from his surprise, hugged me to his bosom, with a fervency that bespoke his joy; and seating ourselves again, I related to him the mystery of my disappearance, and long confinement; and, that through the instrumentality of this poor slave, at my side, I had been enabled to make my escape.

"The God of heaven be praised," cried he, wip-

ing away the tear that stood in his eyes, "and grant that the remainder of your life may be in the bosom of those, whom nature bids you love, I now cast into oblivion all my sufferings, and rejoice with joy unspeakable, that my days have been spared to see this mysterious circumstance developed, and my innocence declared." While the old matron, who had again joined the circle, g.ve vent to the feelings of her heart, in a flood of tears. Some time elapsed ere they regained perfect serenity, which, being at last attained, the old matron served up supper; and we sat down to the homely board, with appetites extremely keen, for we had not tasted food from the time of our leaving the mansion. As soon as the repast was ended, I inquired what had become of the writings. "The blessed virgin increase my thought," replied the old matron, "I had quite forgot them. They are still in the old box;" and rising hastily from her seat, immediatly presented me with them; which was a very fortunate circumstance, as they contained securities on a mercantile house in the city, for a sum of money, which had been deposited for my use.

We, shortly afterwards retired to rest, and had scarcely closed our eyelids, when the sound of horse's feet, and a loud knock at the cottage door, alarmed us. "Who is there?" cried my host from within. "We are servants of the house of Megre," answered a rough voice from without, "and having lost our way, desire thy directions." "Follow the path to the

west," replied my host, "which will bring you to the highway." "But our lights are gone out, my good friend," returned the same voice, "pray open to us the door, that we may renew them." My host arose, and opening the door, they entered, muffled in large cloaks. "You are late travellers, my friends," said my host. "Ah, the devil take such travelling," said one of them, "my legs are torn to pieces with the briers of the forest. I wish old Sampi had been at the bottom of the Atlantic, rather than have given us so much trouble." "Nay," replied another, "I wish them not so, although they have shown us a pair of clean heels." "Why, to be sure," said a third, "if thou hadst been as long in the dungeon as the old fellow, I doubt not, but thou wouldst have made as good use of thy feet, and scuded the mountains with as great velocity." "But, come, let us make towards the mansion, for I am heartily tired of the chase; and let the steward answer for his confidence in the old negro, for of a troth, he had none in us; or, otherwise, the old maniac would not have so easily escaped from his confinement," and immediatly remounting their horses, proceeded. As soon as they were gone, our host entered our apartment, and in a low affrighted tone of voice, whispered, "Did you hear those men? they have been in pursuit of you. Lord, help me, I was in a terrible fear, and my poor wife lay trembling like an aspen leaf." "We did, my good father, and were prepared for the worst; but, it is well they are gone." "Yes," replied he, "and

you may now take your rest, without any further apprehension of pursuit; and may the blessings of Saint Antonio rest with you."

Early in the morning we arose, and found the old matron busy in preparing breakfast; the old man had gone to the fold, accompanied by his faithful dog, the companion of his steps, and the partner of his toils. The sun was just ascending above the horizon, in all its radiant splendour, and so inspiring was the scene around, contrasted with my late wretched incarceration, that I stepped out to a small eminence in front of the cottage, and seating myself upon the short moss, began to contemplate the sweetness of the air; the feathered songsters poured forth their sweet melody, hymning with ardour the praise of heaven, and warbling the glories of their creator. I felt an irresistible impulse to join these little songsters, in humble adoration of that divine being, through whose mercy I had been spared, to again behold his inimitable works, in the sublime scenery of this tranquil wilderness. After breakfast, we began to prepare for our departure; and taking out my purse, which fortunatly contained a few pieces, I presented the old man with a small sum, declaring that I would see them more amply recompensed for their sufferings, when I reached the city; but they refused to accept any compensation, and regretted that it had not been more in their power to make us comfortable." I thanked them for their kind hospitality, and took leave of the good old matron.

The old man insisted upon conducting us to the highway, and taking his staff, and throwing around him his mantle, we proceeded by a path which led down to the banks of a rivulet, whose murmuring waters traced their way over broken fragments of rocks. We trod lightly over the dark brown swad, and reaching the highway, we took an affectionate leave of the good old man.

We continued our journey in the midst of scenery, in which the hand of cultivation could scarcely be traced. At a distance the mountains penetrated the clouds with their aspiring tops, and the stillness of the valley, was only at intervals broken by the unvaried cries of the Lapwing. We hastened over these dreary wilds with all possible speed, and after a fatiguing journey at length reached the suburbs of the metropolis. As we stood, for a moment, upon the neighbouring heights a sigh broke forth from my bosom; the last beams of the setting sun played upon the western walls of the town; and I could distinguish the trees and pleasure grounds attached to the residence of my once kind benefactor, the Intendant. I thought of Eladia, and as I thought of her, I sighed. The exuberance of my feelings hurried me forward, and on reaching the outer gate of the palace, my heart beat violently; I paused for a moment, and then opened the gate, threw my eyes anxiously around in hopes to catch a glimpse of the object of my affection; but, alas, the whole scene was changed. A solemn still-

ness pervaded the mansion ; the creeping ivy entwined itself around the mouldering edifice ; the hissing serpent glided along the marble aisles ; and the bushy bramble covered the onee neat trimmed walk. " O God," cried I, deeply agitated, " what doth mine eyes behold,—a dreary uninhabited ruin, the retreat of the shrieking owl, and the habitation of the drowsy bat. Great God ! where are now its former inhabitants? Where is my beloved Eladia ? My heart beat—my limbs trembled, and I with difficulty retraced my steps to a small cottage near the entrance.

As soon as I had sufficiently recovered myself, I enquired, of the good woman of the house, what had become of the Intendant, and his family. " Art thou a stranger in the city," said she, " or hast thou never heard of the death of that good man ?" "Dead !" ejaculated I. " Yes," returned she, "it is many years ago since he died of a fever, and his lady took it so much to heart that she shortly afterwards followed him." " O God," cried I, " and her sister." " Ah, sir," continued she, " that dear young creature—lovely in her person, and amiable in her manners, suffered deeply at the loss of her husband, who was shortly, after their unfortunate marriage, assassinated in a distant province. After lamenting his death, day by day, refusing all consolation, she at length gave birth to a daughter, the sweetest babe mine eyes ever beheld ; and as the poor lady would repeatedly say, " they have deprived me of my husband, but the Lord hath

replaced him in the features of my child." It attracted her attention from the misfortunes she had suffered, and awakened in her heart the feelings of maternal love. Often under the shaded bower would she moisten its face with tears of the most tender affection ; nevertheless, her strength daily diminished ; the remembrance of her husband still preyed upon her soul, and she at last resolved to remove from the scene of her misfortunes ; so taking the infant, she embarked for Spain : but a storm overtaking the ship, ere they reached their destined shore, she became a total wreck, and all on board, it is said, perished in the deep."

The last sentence fixed me like a marble statute ; my heart seemed to be entombed with Eladia, tears ran down my cheeks in torrents of grief, and my faltering tongue exclaimed, " Farewell, sweet angel of grief, thy sorrows are all entombed in the deep ; no more shall I behold thy angelic form, nor hear thy melodious voice ; death's cold grasp hath closed thy ravishing eye, and bids thee weep no more. Oh ! my divine, Eladia ; and I wretched man, ere long must vanish from the earth."

Here Henrique and Clarissa, deeply affected, interrupted this part of the narrative, by their weeping ; and, when their emotions were overcome, the eventful history was continued "Sampi, used every means to console me ; and, after the first effusion of my grief had in some measure subsided, I arose, and proceed-

ed to a tavern, where I engaged apartments in order to arrange my affairs. My first step was to acquaint the government with the outrage of the Megres; but the Conde, hearing of the matter, fled from the metropolis; subsequently, he addressed a letter to the authorities, declaring his ignorance of the treachery of his predecessors; and, at the same time, enclosed an order upon his agent for a large sum, which he directed might be given to me, as a compensation for the wrongs I had suffered. This declaration, coupled with his munificent present, satisfied the authorities, and I was pressed to its acceptation, as the only redress procurable under the circumstances of the case. The death of the Condessa and the lieutenant, had put it beyond all possibility of calling to account the actual transgressors, and, therefore, I resolved to quit the land of my misfortunes, and once more visit my native country.

With this intention, I began to make preparations for my departure; I remembered the old herdsman and his wife, in an ample provision for the remainder of their lives; I also made every enquiry respecting the fate of my friend Carlos, but without being able to gain the smallest intelligence; and, after settling some matters of personal importance, I embarked with Sampi for Lisbon. A fresh breeze soon carried us far from the sight of Rio into the wide Atlantic; and the weather being extremely fine, we met with no interruption in our progress, until we dropped our anchor in the Tagus.

My relatives being all dead, except you, I repaired to the house of Don Joze Ferriero da Rocha, where I was informed of your retreat ; and after spending a few days with him, I continued my journey to Obidas."

Domingos threw himself on the neck of his Uncle. How wicked have they been in regard to you, my dear Uncle, but, God be praised, you shall henceforth remain here in tranquillity. Give me then the pleasure of seating you in this arm chair, from this moment it belongs to you. Maria, was much affected, and no less anxious to pay respect to the old gentleman ; while Henrique and Clarissa were highly delighted with their new friend, and every breast was filled with the purest feelings of pleasure and happiness.

The holy monk, however, lost no opportunity of calling into action every means which had a tendency to lessen Henrique, in the estimation of his benefactors. He hated no person except Henrique, because he had been personally offended by him ; and, therefore, cherished a deep and settled plan of revenge. The first step in his design, was to create in the mind of Domingos and Maria, a suspicion of the fidelity of Henrique ; the latter he had chosen as the channel through which he might, with more ease, effect his purpose. In order to do this, he was continually devising means, which he thought the most likely to withdraw her affection, or render Henrique an object of apprehension ; he insinuated into her ears, the wild

notions of unbounded liberty and freedom, where intimacies are often introductions to worse ; many scandalous amours and unequal matches having had their rise from them ; and thus, many families of quality, have been plunged into irrecoverable disgrace, which might have been prevented, by tempering their indulgence with a prudent severity ; by regulating their affections with a stricter vigilance, and put it beyond the possibility of their entering into such pernicious engagements, by pre-occupying them in closer familiarities with yourself, or some others, of whose virtues you have reason to be satisfied. Such continued remarks as these, with many others of a still more alarming nature, on the impropriety of Clarissa associating with Henrique, at last induced Maria to think seriously of the matter. She loved Clarissa with the tenderest of all kindness ; and the monk had the satisfaction to find that his plan succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations. But, to shake the confidence of Domingos in the youth, was a matter of no ordinary difficulty ; besides this, his affable and courteous manners, had gained for him, the good opinion of the old gentleman, whom we shall now call captain Delgado.

Henrique attended to his wants, and supported him in all his morning exercitations, with so much care and tenderness, as to engender such lively feelings of regard, as to give much uneasiness to the holy monk. He saw those ingratiations with no small degree of

alarm, and he was induced to employ every means in his power, to counteract its progress. He laid several schemes to induce Henrique into some extravagant follies with Clarissa; but, failing in this, he became more importunate with Maria, in order that she might make an inroad on the feelings of Domingos. Domingos, however, was immoveable on this, as on former occasions; regarding her fears with an incredulous smile. "I must have stronger reasons, nay, I must have proof, my dear," said he, "before that I can entertain such thoughts." Thus the monk found it absolutly necessary, to await the events of time, for the accomplishment of his object.

While these things were going on, Henrique and Clarissa, with light and innocent hearts, absolved from the sphere and operation of evil, enjoyed the most tranquil felicity; rambling upon the cliffs, or instructing each other in their books, under the shaded bower, where the flowers expanded their bright petals to the golden noon, impregnating the air with their rich perfumes. Thus, without any other tutor or master, save the monk, they strove to embellish their minds, and made such proficency, that people scarce knew which most to admire. Clarissa possessed a genius rare to be found in her sex, and Henrique was no way inferior in the cultivation of his mind. They each had a natural ability for the art of drawing, which afforded them abundant occupation, and was a very considerable source of rational enjoyment; they also pro-

ceeded to measure and sketch plans of various parts of the grounds.

In this way they acquired a knewledge of the first principles of trigometry, and, likewise, many things connected with natural history, and physical science, which occasionally occured in the course of their amusements ; thus, in all the improvements or diversions of their youth, they were united and equally interested. This manner of proceeding, could not but create a very great fondness between them, they felt happy iu each other's society, they had no wish for any other ; the barren cliffs or the rugged forest, to them had far more charms, than all the gay and splendid scenes of the metropolis. Indeed, they were unacquainted with its vain follies and transitory pleasures, and, therefore, had no desire to participate in them, but rather to enjoy their rural exercises amidst the tranquil scenery of their immediate residence, where every tree and barren rock had its endearments, affording pleasure to their happy and unpolluted minds. Free from guilt, they apprehended no evil, but wore an easy, courtly, and affable carriage, with so much native candour and generosity of mind, as to endear all with whom they were associated, and thus kept up a reputation, in spite of all the spleen and artifices of the holy monk.

At this time, the royal family visiting Caldas, an entertainment was given at the royal palace, and

among the number of the invited, was Domingos and his family; as was also, Don Joze Duarte da Cunha, and his son, a fine young gentleman, lately returned from the university, with all the accomplishments which grace a court; and to the most agreeable person, had also, all the perfections which make conversation pleasing. His attention was struck with Clarissa, and from the moment of his first entering the room, became sensible of such feelings, as he had not before been susceptible, and was, for some time, unable to account for the strange alteration in himself. He gazed with amazement, and thought that nothing had ever before presented him with an object so engaging; never did the god of love send swifter or more piercing darts, than those he now fixed in the heart of Delfino, for that was the name of the young gentleman. He was restless the whole evening, and full of those uneasy fears, which generally accompany the first susceptibilities of love; and compel the overawed adorer to restrain his languishments, and carefully to conceal from the dear inspirer, the effect her charms had wrought upon his soul. He had no opportunity of engaging her in any private conversation, nor could he address her with any but in general terms, and what might pass for complaisance to the other ladies, as well as to her. He, therefore, retired early, and as soon as convenient, revealed the state of his mind to his father.

Don Joze, on the following day, drove to the man-

sion of Domingos, in order to relate the circumstance of his son's attachment for Clarissa, and to advise with him on the subject of a matrimonial alliance between the two families. Domingos had no objections to an alliance so highly advantageous, and which promised such gratifying prospects of more closely uniting the two families, in those ties of blood and amity, so much desired to crown their future happiness. He, therefore, readily acceded to the wishes of Don Joze ; the only question was the inclination of Clarissa, which Maria undertook to sound on that important subject. Arrangements being thus far advanced, Don Joze took his leave, in order to acquaint his son with the happy result of his mission ; and Maria soon found an opportunity to enter into a conference with Clarissa.

Finding her seated alone in the library, she began the conversation. "Well, my dear, how did you like the entertainment last night." "Oh ! very much indeed, mother." " I was sure," continued the mother, " that you would feel highly interested with so brilliant an assemblage, particularly in the younger branches thereof. How very polite and interesting was the young Delfino, what do you think, my dear?" added she, looking archly at Clarissa. " Well, yes, mother," replied Clarissa, " he is certainly a very elegant young gentleman, with a sensible, lively, and pleasing, turn of countenance." " Not only so," said her mother, " but he is also amiable, and I think he would make a very agree-

able companion for you, my dear." "For me, mother," replied Clarissa, with quickness, and looking surprised, "have I not one, is Henrique not very agreeable?" "Truly so, my dear," returned the mother, "but you have arrived at that period of life, when it may be desirable to alter your condition, by entering on the marriage state, provided you have an offer which your parents, who have the care of you, find to your advantage." "What say you, Clarissa, have you ever yet had any thoughts of that change?" Clarissa blushed extremely, at an interrogatory she so little expected, but recovering from her confusion, said, "pardon me mother, if I think these questions very strange to me, who have never thought on so important a subject as marriage, and which, perhaps, it will never be my lot to experience." "That my dear," replied the mother, "would be contrary to the wishes of your parents, who are most anxiously desirous of promoting your happiness; and they are convinced that should suitable arrangements be made, an honourable marriage would be, in their minds, the most effectual mode of promoting your interest and permanent welfare."

"You see nothing is more common than for persons of your age to enter into that state, but, alas, too frequently by an imprudent choice, they blight the bud of all their felicity, and destroy the anxious hopes of their loving parents. These circumstances give rise to an anxious desire on the part of parents, to see their

children advantageously and comfortably settled in life; and I think the best way of approving their love towards their children, is by making it their duty to give especial attention to this subject. This sense of duty then, my dear, obliges me, as your parent, to watch with zealous care your interest in all things pertaining to your future happiness; and caution you to steer a safe course at this critical period of your life. You will observe, according to the common order of things, that you are subject, as well as others, to the intrusions of disagreeable pretenders, who bribe by well timed flattery, in order to gain favour under a disguise; and, therefore, you must be upon your guard to receive no addresses without first consulting your parents, who are the most proper to advise with on such important matters. To this end, I would have you endeavour to settle your affections on one whom you are certain will always love you, and who is your equal in every thing."

As she spoke, the confusion of Clarissa increased beyond all description; she was uncertain whether her mother spoke in this manner to try her temper, or if she were really in earnest; and, therefore, after a moments consideration, she said, "really, mother, I cannot comprehend what it is you mean, but of this I am very certain, that I shall not change my present condition." "But why, Clarissa," returned the mother, "do you think yourself too young to marry, or have you an aversion to the name of wife." "Neither, mo-

ther," answered she, "I am so far from having any dislike to the married state, that I believe it to be the most happy of any, provided there be no disparity in the minds of the pair so united." "What think you then, my dear," said the mother, "of young Delfino, I know of no inequality between you and him." "Delfino," cried Clarissa, strangely amazed. "Yes," pnrsued the mother, "his father, Don Joze, has this morning revealed to your father, and myself, the passion his son has for you; though the respect which always accompanies true love has kept him from declaring it to yourself." "What say you, Clarissa," added the mother. "must he despair?" "He must indeed, mother," answered Clarissa, coolly, "his addresses would be obnoxious to me." "Why so?" inquired the anxious mother. "Because, I have no disposition to relinquish my present felicity, in the society of yourself, my father, and Henrique."

"But, my dear," replied the mother, "how much more would your felicity be augmented, by a prudent selection of a companion, in whom you could confide in all those sweet consultations of domestic happiness; and where your home would be the seat of affluence, surrounded by your friends, and an agreeable husband; doubtless you are at an age when the nuptial crown is desirable; and the natural regard I have for you, may make you know that it is impossible for me to advise you to any thing which I am not confident is for your good." "O think me not," answered

Clarissa, "ungrateful for all those tender cares and parental attentions which you have at all times bestowed upon me, or that I am of so mean and sordid a soul, as to prefer wealth and grandeur to those virtues which alone can make the married state happy. Oh! no, however sensible I am of these things, yet under the present circumstances I cannot comply with your request." "And in what" interrupted the mother, "is Delfino deficient, that his endeavours to meet your favour should not be successful to the extent of his wishes." "Perhaps, I have never yet asked myself the question," answered Clarissa, "but his shape, his air, his conversation, and manners, are nothing like Henrique." Ah! thought the mother, the observations of the holy monk are but too true, and with this impression, she hastened to Domingos in order to communicate what had passed between them.

Clarissa immediately retired to a bower in the garden, and there gave loose to thought and meditation; tears flowed from her eyes, and she covered her face with the handkerchief, just as Henrique passed the bower on his return from the vineyard. "O," exclaimed he, "what is the matter, my dear Clarissa?" clasping her tenderly to his bosom. "I am vexed to death," replied she, sobbing. "From what cause, or by whom?" inquired he, his features bespeaking the indignation of his soul. "Oh! Delfino," cried she, in half stifled sobs. "Delfino," exclaimed he, with astonishment, "has he dared to offend thee? Then by

all the powers of saint Pedro, but he shall presently repent of his presumption." "Hold," cried Clarissa, throwing her arms around his neck, "not so, he wishes to espouse me, and has this morning sent his father to obtain the approbation of my parents." "And do they acquiesce in his proposition," inquired Henrique. "They do," replied she. He sighed, and cast his eyes to the ground, for he dared not to reply. It was the wish of his benefactors, and they each remained silent for awhile, absorbed in mental agitation; at last Henrique broke silence, "Yes, they wish it," said he, "and thou oughtest to conform, if possible, to the wishes of thy parents." "What," ejaculated she, "and dost thou also wish that I may be united to him." "I, my dear Clarissa," said Henrique, confused, "who would feel more the loss of thy society than I? But thy parents," he sighed. She turned suddenly towards him, her person erect, her countenance assured, her voice resolute and intrepid, "They may command me," said she, "but I will never consent to receive the hand of Delfino. "I know," said Henrique, "that the heart cannot be controlled; and as thou avows a dislike to Delfino, openly declare thy aversion; for I am certain our good parents love thee too well to dispose of thee against thy inclination, or in any thing rashly to interrupt thy tranquillity. They love thee, Clarissa, with all the tenderness of parental fondness, and their only wish is still further to augment thy happiness by marriage into a respectable family. The long friendly intercourse

between our parents and Don Joze, is sufficient to inspire them with a desire to increase that friendship by a still closer unity of the two families ; and, certainly, Delfino has all the good qualities a woman could wish to find in him she chooses for a companion for life." "Oh ! Henrique," interrupted Clarissa, "cease to torment my soul ; the very sight of him is poison to my eyes ; I can hear no more, thou pleadest for him, adieu." She was about to retire ; he caught her hand and pressed it to his lips. "My dear sister," said he, thou canst not doubt the brotherly affection which warms my heart, and endears thee to me. Oh ! think, sweet Clarissa, of our long and uninterrupted felicity, our peaceful rambles, and social hours in the midst of this enchanting scenery ; are they not fresh as the morning's due, and sufficient to convince thee of the pain I must feel under the present circumstances. Yes, my dear Clarissa, thou canst not doubt my regard for thy tranquillity, and, therefore, I earnestly recommend thee to consult thy own happiness ; thou knowest my unfortunate condition, nevertheless, I am at thy service, command me in all things, I will defend thy happiness at the point of my sabre." "Hush, Henrique, not a word more, I hear the footsteps of some one." They were those of the holy monk, sauntering down an opposite walk—he seemed to be in deep meditation, his arms folded, and his eyes cast upon the ground. They retired hastily and unperceived to the mansion, promising to commune with each other on the subject, at a more convenient season.

As soon as Maria had finished the relation of her conference with Clarissa, Domingos arose from his seat, and paced the floor of the apartment for some time, in silence. He knew not what to think ; he was hurt to find his daughter reject so advantageous an offer, and yet he was unwilling to exercise any compulsive measures in order to her compliance with his wishes ; he, therefore, sought to advise with captain Delgado. The captain was adverse to any compulsory measures being taken, but thought it, nevertheless, adviseable to encourage the visits of young Delfino, in order to try whether his insinuating and highly accomplished manners would not, in time, awaken the sensibility of Clarissa, to something more soft and passionate in favour of himself ; in the meantime, Maria had revealed the whole to the holy monk.

Domingos being satisfied with these arrangements, young Delfino met with the most kind reception upon every visit to the mansion. He was resolved to lose no pains of attempting the conquest; and, therefore, was most assiduous in his attentions to Clarissa, redoubling his civilities upon every visit, and accordingly used such means as the art of love could devise, by saying a thousand tender things, whenever chance afforded them a moment's privity, in order, if possible, to arouse her susceptibility. But, to his mortification, he found all his efforts produced no other effect than creating greater coldness on the part of Clarissa, who, avoided as much as possible his presence, frequently

immuring herself in her own apartment during his visit; or stealing from the mansion to accompany Henrique on his usual rambles in the retirement of the vale. Thus the assiduous lover had frequently to retire without once gaining a glance of the object of his attention, which undoubtedly gave him considerable uneasiness, and induced him to communicate his fears to his father.

His father again awaited upon Domingos, and was received by him with his usual cordiality; they retired to the library, and summoning the holy monk, a consultation immediately ensued, in which Don Joze reproached Domingos with want of parental authority, in not obliging his daughter to comply with his wishes; while on the other hand, nothing could be more conciliatory to the feelings of the holy monk, than the opportunity of representing Henrique as the cause of their embarrassment; and, consequently, in his usual dissembling manner, demonstrated the impropriety of his continuing at the mansion, with so much apparent sympathy, and plausible reasoning, as at last, to induce Domingos to give way to his persuasion; but in what manner to provide for the youth, was a matter for consideration, and would require some time for determination. Therefore, as soon as this matter could be settled, and a suitable situation procured for Henrique, Domingos agreed that he should leave the mansion.

It so happened, in a few days after this conference,

that captain Miranda arrived at the mansion, on a visit from Lisbon, and the circumstance having being mentioned, he very readily proposed to take Henrique with him on his return to the metropolis, and procure for him a commission in the army ; providing that it met with the approbation of Domingos, and the inclination of the youth. " For," said he, " the lad possesses noble qualities, with a soul lacking nothing of bravery, and the army would afford ample means of displaying those manly attributes with which nature has so bountifully endued him." Domingos was highly pleased with the generous conduct of the captain towards the unfortunate youth, whose inclinations he now thought proper to sound ; and, taking him one day in his closet, began to detail to him the nature of his wishes, in so tender and feeling a manner, as to raise the most lively sensations in the mind of Henrique. He wept bitterly at the thoughts of a separation from his benefactors ; but Domingo's reasonings on the propriety of the steps he advised, came with such force, as at once to silence every objection. He, therefore, arose and bowing respectfully to Domingos, said " Sir, I have great reason to distrust myself, I am sensible of my own weakness and your superior wisdom, as well as goodness, and I willingly submit to you in all things, only allow me to claim a continuance of that protecting care and esteem, with which you have hitherto honoured me." " My dear boy," said Domingos, greatly moved, " I will extend my hand to receive thee at all opportunities, so long as thou doest

nothing to forfeit the good opinion I entertain of thee; and further, I shall be ready at all times to serve thee in any thing consistent with my own honour." Henrique kissed the hand of Domingos, and replied, "I accept your favour, sir, upon this condition only," and bowing respectfully to his benefactor, retired.

The monk secretly rejoiced in the triumph he had gained over the feelings of Domingos; and, when alone, said to himself, smiling, "Chance, for once, has favoured my object, all seems well; the banishment of that detested puppy is now certain. Yes, thou fool, thou oughtest to crouch at my feet as the spaniel to his incensed master; for, assuredly, I shall be avenged, and then Clarissa, most charming of thy sex, thou canst bestow thy regards on one more worthy than a vagabond.

Henrique, with a heart overcharged with sorrow, sought the retreat of Clarissa, in order to communicate the sad intelligence of his speedy departure from the mansion. She saw by the listless carriage of his person, the bend of his head, and the slowness of his steps, so different from his usual tread, that he was unwell or unhappy, and the most fearful sensations arose in her heart. "What is the matter with thee Henrique," cried she anxiously, "art thou ill?" "Oh, no," replied Henrique, endeavouring to speak cheerfully, when he saw her so unprepared to receive intelligence so wounding to her heart; yet unable to dismiss

the subject from his own mind, or keep her in suspence, he related the whole of the conversation which had passed between her father and himself; and, also, that his departure for the metropolis was already decided upon. Clarissa was thunderstruck with this intelligence; she had never thought of such a thing; and, bursting into tears, she repled "They wish to separate us." "Oh, no," said Henrique, smiling, "It is thy father's kindness to present me with a chance of raising my condition in the service of the state; where, by the blessing of God, I may perchance distinguish my abilities, with some small portion of credit to myself, and do honour to thy father's generous protection and instruction of my early years." "But, oh, Henrique," cried Clarissa, "the horrors and dangers of the army: thou mayest fall by the sword of the enemy." "Fear not, Clarissa," said Henrique, straining her to his bosom, "I trust in the providential care of God, and fear no harm." She crossed herself, and exclaimed "May heaven protect thee"—they separated.

At the hour of dinner, the whole family met in the saloon. Don Joze, and his son Delfino, had just arrived from Caldas. accompanied by captain Miranda, and all sat down to dinner with apparent cheerfulness, except Clarissa and Henrique, who were more than usually reserved. A visible sadness overspread the countenance of Clarissa, which was soon observed by Maria, and all the fears of a proud and doating mother arose in her heart. Her first care, therefore,

was, as soon as dinner was ended, to inquire the state of her health, and asked her if she would not retire, to which request she answered in the affirmative ; while Henrique, notwithstanding the spirited conversation, and lively sallies of captain Miranda, withdrew at an early hour to his apartment, revolving in his mind the peculiarity of his situation, and the uncertainity of his future prospects. Lost in thought, he threw himself on his couch, where exhausted nature soon closed his eyelids.

The time now drew near when captain Miranda was to rejoin his corps, and the necessary preparations were consequently made for Henrique to accompany him. On the morning of their departure, Henrique took an affectionate leave of Domingos and Maria ; but on approaching Clarissa, she threw herself sobbing upon his neck. He drew her tenderly to his bosom, and in the keeness of his emotion, kissed off the scalding tears that rolled down her cheek, and still closer pressed her to his heart. Unwilling to separate, they hung around each other's neck in the deepest anguish of soul, until duty obliged him at last to tear himself from her embraces ; and mounting his horse, set forward to the metropolis.

Never was man more transported than the monk, as the last sound of the horses feet died upon his ear. He had watched the departure of Henrique, with a mixture of delight and anxiety ; for, notwithstanding

his success with Domingos, yet, he was uncertain of his stability; and, consequently, some unpleasant fears arose in his mind, that filled him with anxiety for the youth's departure. "I shall now," said he to himself, smiling, "have nothing to interrupt the further progress of my project; Delfino, poor youth, he is as soft as wax, capable of any impression, I will sport with his simplicity, encourage his hopes, and make him subservient to my own views, whilst thou Clarissa, fairest of thy sex, shall have nothing to fear from this amorous fool."

The captain and Henrique pursued their jonrney to the Metropolis, they conversed together on the way, and had Henrique been more in his usual state of composure, he would undoubtedly have enjoyed the journey with much gratification. But, alas, his heart was sad, his eyes repeatedly swam with tears, and he looked back with many an earnest desire to retrace his steps. Clarissa was present in his mind, he could not forget her parting embrace, he still thought he saw the trickling tear roll down her cheek in pearly drops; while the keen recollection of their rural felicity sprang afresh into his mind, and like a thousand daggers probed his heart. The captain, however, used every exertion to raise his spirits, by relating the most animating accounts of his country's achievements; the glorious accessions gained to the crown in various parts of the world; and also the triumphant return of the army to its native land, bearing with it the banners of

the defeated enemy, amidst the enthusiastic cheers of their grateful countrymen. These accounts had the effect of considerably alleviating his distress, his countenance began to brighten, his eyes to sparkle with a desire to imitate those bold warriors in the cause of his country's welfare. On reaching the metropolis, through the interest of the captain, he soon gained an appointment wherein to exercise his abilities.

The mansion of Domingos was now more frequently visited by Don Joze, who paid the most handsome compliments to the holy monk, and upon every occasion besought his influence with Clarissa in favour of his son. The monk, with much complaisance, tendered his services, and thus became the confident of Delfino, whom he engaged to commit various imprudencies. He persuaded his vanity, that, with his mind, it was easy to overcome the most difficult task; that efforts which would reduce to despair any ordinary man, would only afford to him an opportunity of displaying his attachment under the most advantageous point of view; he advised him to allow no relaxation to Clarissa, but to continue his suit with more than ordinary zeal. Henceforth, therefore, Delfino ever treated Clarissa with the greatest assiduity; but the difficulties which he had to struggle with in the pursuit of his affections, gave him the utmost disquietude of mind. However, the obstacles he met with, he determined should not deter him from proceeding; that if for her he must despair, it should not be occasioned by his

own negligence or remissness. While he was contemplating his devoirs, Clarissa, pale and dejected, was deeply lamenting the absence of Henrique, in all their rural excursions,—the cliffs had lost their beauties—the groves their pleasures—the bowers their animation—and all appeared to her as one gloomy desert without a single charm. The well known path was deserted for the more retired seclusion of her own apartment, where she spent all her leisure hours; notwithstanding the intreaties of her mother to join the evening circle, she preferred solitude to all the pleasantries of the saloon. Indeed, she was determined, as much as possible, to avoid the approaches of Delfino, who was now almost a constant visitor at the mansion; as was also Don Joze, and his lady, whose united efforts to overthrow her resolution were so extremely tormenting, that she wished to be freed from them all. This was certainly the most discreet method she could take, to avoid the presence of persons whose society she could not enjoy; yet, it gave Domingos and Maria no small uneasiness to behold, after all their intreaties, the continued obstinacy of their daughter; and they applied to captain Delgado, conjuring him out of pity to exert his influence over Clarissa, to render her compliant to the wishes of her family. The captain with a keen and penetrating eye, had long discovered the secret movings of Clarissa's heart, and this proposal deeply affected him. It brought afresh to his mind his own misfortunes in the pursuit of his affections with Eladia. A train of circumstances na-

turally rushed upon his mind which forbade his interference, and he consequently declined to comply. Don Joze, however, even proceeded so far as to threaten Clarissa, with her father's promise of marriage, which he looked upon as an indispensible obligation ; and imperiously demanded the performance of it, which excited her wrath so much, that, with an air of indignity, and in the most spirited manner, she replied to him, "That all the threats, or treasures of India, should not tempt her to part with the smallest portion of her independence." This decision produced the most disagreeable domestic scenes. Don Joze left the mansion in anger ; Maria, shed the most sorrowful tears, and Domingos groaned with anxiety. The captain, however, secretly applauded the high spirit of Clarissa, and he would willingly have aided her, had there not been reasons which rendered such a line of conduct highly improper. The uncertainty of Henrique's birth, the probability of his being the fruit of iniquity, and his parent one of the number of those shameless and wretched women, who have once blushed at the name of virtue, but now cease to blush at all ; these were sufficient to determine him to remain neuter, amidst the different interests of those around him.

A sullen silence now reigned in the mansion, and Clarissa was allowed to indulge her solitude uninterrupted, with the exception of the holy monk, who, in the character of a preceptor, daily visited her. He was more complaisant than ordinary, his voice had lost all

its austerity, his looks were mild, and he spoke to her apparently without the slightest reserve. This surprised Clarissa so much that she was unable to account for this sudden change in his manners, which was so unusual to his general demeanour. A variety of suspicions arose in her mind as to his motives, for she had no doubt but that he had some insidious end in view ; and, consequently, was perfectly reserved upon all his visits, shunning, as much as possible, all conversation with him, and always retiring at the expiration of the time appointed for her studies ; notwithstanding these precautions, he contrived to throw out many mysterious observations. One day he alluded to Delfino, leaving the vicinity for awhile, "and then," said he, " you will be at liberty to join the family circle." " It will not be that gentleman who restrains my liberty," said Clarissa, gravely, " whether he goes or stays my inclination will not make me remain less alone, nor his presence prevent me from residing wherever I think proper." The monk shrugged up his shoulders, and was silent.

Clarissa retired to her chamber fully convinced that her situation would now be irksome, and most disagreeable in the further prosecution of her studies, where she would be subject to the interrogatories of the monk, and which she could not by possibility avoid. She, therefore, was necessitated every day to listen to a variety of observations in no way interesting to herself, except when the name of Henrique was

mentioned, which he took frequent occasions to do; and, in the most feeling manner, expressed his sorrow at his absence from the mansion, as, he had no doubt, from their long associating together that the seperation would be felt severely; he yet hoped such feelings would soon pass away, and that Clarissa would again enjoy her usual excursions abroad. He pretended to take a most zealous interest in her cause, censured the conduct of Don Joze, and highly extolled her own indifference to the advances of Delfino, with many other ingenious schemes in order to gain admittance to her favour. Had Clarissa not possessed a penetration superior to her sex, she might have been induced to number him among the most zealous of her friends; but to all his insinuations she was cold and reserved. The monk was highly chagrined at the ill success of his schemes, but, hiding his displeasure, he continued his complacency, and was even more attentive to Clarissa, frequently persuading her to resume her wonted perambulations; but to all his entreaties she continued inflexible, and he had the mortification to find that his efforts produced not the smallest change in her disposition.

Some weeks now elapsed without any apparant alteration in the circumstances of the family: all was silent and reserved. The monk had been more than usually absent from the mansion; Domingos occupied himself with his agriculture affairs; and Maria, in her domestic movements, offered not the smallest restraint

to the inclinations of Clarissa; who, according to her usual custom, sat one night at the window of her apartment, long after the family had retired to rest, contemplating the beautiful effect of the moon's rays on the cliffs above; when suddenly her room door was thrown open by several ruffians, who entered armed, and placing a handkerchief over her mouth, to prevent her from making any noise, took her in their arms, and conveyed her silently down a back staircase, which led to the court yard, where a vehicle was in waiting, into which they placed her, and, drawing down the blinds, one of the ruffians seated himself by her side, and the others mounting their steeds, they proceeded at full speed. A solemn stillness reigned as the solitary cavalcade winded round the cliffs, amidst the refulgent rays of the moon; not a sound was to be heard, save the noise of the horses feet, and the murmer of the waves on the beach. They soon reached the forest; and Clarissa having recovered from the swoon into which she had fallen, overpowered with terror and amazement, she intreated the ruffian, in a manner which would have sunk into any heart that was not rendered wholly inexorable to feeling, to inform her of the motives for such outrage; and conjured him in the most pitiable tone, to return her to her home. "Ay," replied the ruffian with a sneer,, "thou shalt soon be at home, and safely too, I'll answer for it."

They redoubled their speed, notwithstanding the intricacy of the road, which passed through the midst of

a dense forest, where the trees and underwood frequently interrupted the passage of the vehicle. They, however, at length arrived at an old convent, situate in a lonely part of the forest, which had formerly been inhabited by monks, but was now fallen into decay. Its once lofty towers were crumbling to the ground in wreckless masses, forming a dreary and deserted ruin, that would have appalled even the stoutest heart to approach at midnight. It may then easily be conceived the state of Clarissa's feelings, as they led her from the vehicle, over numerous fragments of the building, which lay in the way to a door partly concealed by rubbish, and by the ivy that over-run the mouldering walls. A signal was made by one of the ruffians, when presently the sound of a foot was heard from within, approaching the door, and it was opened by an old matron, who conducted them, by the light of a small lamp, along a vaulted passage, every step reverberating amidst the reigning solemnity. There were several windings in this dreary passage, which, at length, brought them to the foot of a small staircase; on the opposite side was a large hall, into which the ruffians entered.

On the walls of this apartment hung in regular order a number of pistols, swords, and other weapons of defence, which at once convinced Clarissa that she was in the hands of a lawless banditti. Her heart trembled, her eyes streamed with tears, and she was almost fainting with the thoughts of her position, when

the old matron observing her distress, took up the lamp she had previously placed upon the table, and said, "Come child, I will conduct you to your apartment." Clarissa, willing to quit a place so terrific, hastily followed her conductor, who ascended the stairs, and then passed through a long gallery to a small apartment. "Now child," said the old matron, "this apartment, which contains every comfort, is for your own use, compose yourself, child, and go into the bed which I have prepared for you." Clarissa attempted to speak, but the old matron shook her head, and retired. Clarissa, now left alone, gave loose to her feelings in the most bitter anguish of soul; she could not conceive who were the instigators of this outrage, and the more she endeavoured to unravel the mystery, the greater was her embarrassment; at length, exhausted by fatigue, she threw herself upon the bed; but it was not to be imagined she could sleep. The most frightful imaginations took possession of her mind, as she listened to a confusion of voices resounding from below, as if the ruffians were in the highest state of hilarity; and it was not until near day-break, that these sounds ceased to annoy her.

As soon as the morning light appeared through the casement, she arose to examine her prison, for as yet she had seen but little of its horrors; she found the window barricaded with iron bars, and the door safely secured by large locks and bolts, that all thoughts of making her escape would be in vain; she conse-

quently returned again to her couch, and wept bitterly to find herself in such a place, so guarded and so secure. In this extreme distress she remained nearly two hours after the sun ascended the horizon, before any sound was heard in the convent; at length the door of her prison was opened by the old matron, who brought her some food, and placing it upon the table, similing, inquired how she had rested, not doubting but that she would feel fatigued with her journey, and would sleep soundly. But on observing her bed, she exclaimed "The holy virgin bless me, child, why you have never been in bed," casting her eyes around the room, "it is just as I told my son, they would disturb you with their noise; the foolish boys," she continued, "are so cheerful and merry, notwithstanding the strict injunctions of my master that you were not to be disturbed; but I will take care that for the future, you shall have no reason for any complaint of this kind." She was then about to retire, when Clarissa, turning towards her, replied in the deepest tone of distress, "Oh, my good mother, I approach you not with complaint, but tell me, I conjure thee, what are the motives for this outrage, and who is your son?" "Why, Lord bless you, child, it was the same youth who sat at your side in the vehicle which brought you to the convent of Amixuiera, and as valiant a youth as ever trod the forest sward, I'll warrant him." "Amixuiera." reiterated Clarissa, "and who is your master of whom you spoke?" "You will see him to morrow," she answered with a smile, and then retired, without

permitting the disconsolate Clarissa to interrogate her further.

She found from the manner in which the old woman evaded her questions, that she had been taught to conceal the design of her employer, and no language could adequately describe her feelings, as she turned from the harsh sound of the bolts that secured her prison. She paced the floor of her narrow chamber for a few minutes in great agitation, and then seated herself by the window which looked into the cloisters, in order to think upon what she had learnt from her attendant, in respect of her employer; who, thought she, can it be. Is it possible that Delfino could be guilty of such base means to get me into his power; or is it one of those degraded ruffians who seeks my ruin. "Oh! heaven forbid," she exclaimed, and burst into tears. At a late hour on the following morning, her door was opened by the old matron, who found her seated by the window, resting her head upon her hand, in deep melancholy. She saluted her with the compliments of the morning; and, immediately after entered the monk. "Well Clarissa," said he, after a pause, during which his eyes had been fixed with a searching expression upon her countenance. "Oh, holy father, exclaimed Clarissa, rising hastily from her seat, and clasping his knees, "have you found me—where is my father? For heaven's sake convey me from this loathsome place," and immediately sunk breathless on the floor. The monk, assisted by the

old matron, raised her from the ground, and in the course of a little time, she exhibited signs of returning animation.

When she became conscious of what was passing around her, she again implored the monk's protection, who, fearing a relapse, promised every thing she requested; and with much feigned sympathy, begged she would compose herself, under the strongest assureance of safety, as he had already the command of her freedom. He obliged her to take a little cordial which the old matron had brought for the purpose, for she was so weak that she was unable to move without assistance. "The lady had better rest herself upon the bed," said the old woman. "Many thanks for your kindness," replied the monk, looking artfully at the old matron, "she certainly requires repose, and I hope she will adopt your advice. They assisted her to the side of the bed, and the monk retired, promising to visit her again as soon as she had taken a little rest. Clarissa soon fell into a sound sleep, a drug having been mingled with the cordial for that purpose, and she continued to sleep until the evening had somewhat advanced. When she awoke, she found herself much recovered, but was surprised to find the room had been considerably improved in its furniture. A sofa, and many other articles had been placed in it, which denoted that it was intended for a longer use than she anticipated to occupy it.

The sight of these arrangements naturally filled her

with the most alarming conjectures, and she became exceedingly desirous for the monk's return. She looked anxiously down to the piazza; the sable curtain of night had almost shut out the light of heaven from its arches, and a hoarse hollowing of the wind as it rushed fiercly through their recesses, left a moanful echo resounding upon the ear. "How dismal," exclaimed she, turning hastily from the casement, and listening, with the deepest anxiety, for the sound of some one approaching her chamber, but all was silent within the Convent. She stamped with her feet, she called, but in vain, and her impatience became almost insupportable.

A faint glimmering light at length appeared through the crevice of the door, and immediately the door was opened by the monk, accompanied by the old matron, who brought some refreshments; as soon as she had spread them on the table, the monk waved his hand in token for her to retire. He then approached the distressed Clarissa, and, taking her by the hand, led her towards the sofa. "Be seated, my dear," said he, placing himself by her side, and drawing up the hood of his garb, "it gives me infinite pleasure to find you so much recovered; you cannot imagine, my dear, how uneasy I have been during your prolonged sleep; a thousand tormenting fears obtruded my mind, and oppressed my spirits so much, that I have wandered to and fro in the deepest anxiety; but I am glad, nay happy, to find you again the same divine creature I

have ever beheld you ; and I doubt not but my eyes long ere this have given you sufficient intelligence of my heart, yet, lest you should be ignorant of this language, vouchsafe to learn it now from myself. I love you, O ! divinest of your sex, I need not tell you with a flame as sincere as it is ardent." Clarissa started on her feet in the utmost astonishment, she trembled, she gazed as she recoiled with horror, and could scarcely credit her ears. But the monk passionately caught her hand, and again drew her to her seat. Highly incensed at his behaviour, she requested he would immediately desist, but he continued, " This you may think extravagant from one who has never before declared the sentiments of his heart ; but what cannot love like mine accomplish. Oh ! could it inspire you also with some part of that abundant store, with which my heart is full, how much beyond the faint description of all that words can speak would be the happiness of my state. Then fairest of women, think more generously of my passion—let the fervency of my desire warm you into a sensibility. I know too well I have a rival, whose interest, more than his merit, gives me pain ; and in order to relieve you from his opportunities I have removed you to this place. Nay, shrink not Clarissa, 'tis of no use dissembling, you are, and must be the sovereign mistress of my soul." " Never," cried Clarissa, resolutely breaking from his grasp, and upbraiding him with his abusing the name of his profession, and the laws of his country. " Recollect," said she with vehemence, " the sanctity of

the garb you wear; and for the sake of that blessed saint, whom you represent, return me to my home." "That I will not do," said he, pevishly; "you are grown strangely arrogant, but, I believe, I have the means to humble thy unbecoming pride. For the present I bid you farewell, but think not that I shall abandon my design; no, in a few days you will doubtless behold me again, and, I advise you then to receive me in a manner more consonant with my wishes, than you have done this night." As he spoke these words he left the room, leaving her involved in a mixture of surprise, rage, and grief.

In this state, brooding over her miserable condition, let us leave her for a time, and visit the mansion of her father. In the morning the family came down to breakfast, and Clarissa not appearing as usual, a servant was desired to summon her, she rapped at her chamber door, but no one answered; she then opened it, but found the room unoccupied and the bed untouched. Surprised at this, she returned and told the family; Domingos arose hastily from his seat, and, accompanied by Maria, flew to her chamber, called her name loudly, but received no answer. They then searched every apartment, but she was no where to be found. He enqnired of the servants, but none of them had seen her. He consulted the monk, but he could form no opinion. Lost in amazement, for some time he knew not what to do, at length he mounted his horse and rode hastily to the mansion of Don Joze.

He eagerly inquired for Delfino, and in the most agonizing feelings related the mysterious disappearance of his daughter; beseeching them, for the love of God, if they knew anything respecting this alarming circumstance to inform him immediately. Don Joze, and the rest of the family, were thunderstruck at this intelligence; they solemnly declared under the most impressive feelings, that they knew nothing of the matter. In fact Delfino was equally, if not more affected then Domingos, and immediately offered to accompany him in search of his daughter.

Domingos returned, accompanied by Don Joze and Delfino, they found Maria frantic with grief, tearing her hair, and exclaiming, "Oh! my child! my child! my dear Clarissa!" The feeble captain Delgado bending over her, and using every means to console her. The servants were also much distressed, and each offered to go in the search. Among the rest came old Sampi, who, wiping away the tear that stood on his cheek, and buckling on his girdle, declared he would never return until he had found his dear young mistress. The servants were then dispatched in various directions; the monk also avowed his intention to assist in developing the mystery. As soon as Domingos had dispatched a special messenger to Lisbon, where he hoped to find Henrique, he and Delfino proceeded in the search; while Don Joze and his lady remained to comfort the distressed Maria. The servants, however, after a fruitless search returned, with

the exception of old Sampi, and towards midnight Domingos also reached reached his domicile with the same unsuccessful issue.

Things were in this state when, on the following morning, the monk bent his steps towards the mansion, and, with a countenance expressive of the deepest feeling, declared that after the most indefatigable exertions, he had not been able to gain the smallest intelligence of Clarissa; he, nevertheless, expressed a hope that her safety would shortly be discovered; at the same time intimating that she might have been induced to proceed to the metropolis, under some secret influence of Henrique. "I perfectly coinside with your opinion holy father," said Don Joze, "and though I feel deeply for my friends; yet, I cannot but blame Domingos for the absurdity of rearing a mere foundling on the same equality with his own child, giving a presumption to that freedom of intercourse the natural result of an ill placed attachment; and the unquestionable cause of the present distressing circumstance." "But do you think," said Maria, the tears glittering in her eyes, "that he would be guilty of so base and contemptible a crime." "There can be little doubt of it, madam," returned Don Joze, shrugging up his shoulders. Domingos groaned within himself and folding his arms traversed the room in painful agitation.

In this state of parental agony, we shall now leave

them and return to Clarissa, in her gloomy and solitary cell, shut up from the sympathies of humanity, without the smallest hope of making her escape. It may then easily be conceived the state of her feelings on discovering that the monk, in whom she had hoped for deliverance, was in reality the cause of her incarceration, and his requital of trust was betrayed by treachery enveloped under the garb of piety. The very idea was recoiling, and she saw in all its alarming features the horrors of her situation. She had now no doubt but that he was the leader of a lawless gang of highwaymen, and that her place of confinement was a receptacle for these ruffians. She wept, and thought of her parents; and the impossibility there appeared of ever seeing them again considerably augmented her sorrows. She doubted not but that her life would be sacrificed as soon as he should have satiated his infamous desire; she, therefore, resolved rather to die than yeild, and with this resolution firmly awaited the issue of events. On the next day she was visited again by the old woman, who brought her some needful requisites; and after making a few unimportant remarks, smilingly inquired, "how she liked the monk?" assuring her that he was one of the best creatures upon earth, and that she would find herself extremely comfortable, as he was entirely devoted to her service; and would doubtless lavish upon her every thing that would have a tendency to augment her felicity. These remarks threw off the little remains of patience Clarissa had preserved, and in a tone

which demonstrated her indignation, she cried, " cease you infamous wretch and depart from my presence." The old hag withdrew, smiling maliciously as she closed the door.

Clarissa sighed and pressed her hand against her palpitating heart. " Good God," said she to herself, "is it possible that such wretches exist in my own sex ?" " Oh ! heaven, support my distracted senses, and deliver me from this dire place." She looked through the casement, her heart trembled as she observed the shades of night had put in; and turning from the window paced the floor until exhausted by fatigue she threw herself upon the bed. Sleep was stealing over her wearied body and distressed soul, when suddenly she was alarmed with a dismal groan from the room underneath ; she listened with trembling expectation—another groan, in a still more hollow sound, increased her consternation, a cold tremor came over, and she lay with breathless attention, but all subsided again into a deathlike stillness, and at length exhausted nature buried all her fears in the arms of repose. She awoke on the following morning much refreshed ; but the thoughts of what she had heard on the proceeding night considerably harassed her imagination, and increased her terror, she was confident those tokens of distress arose from beneath her own room, but whether natural or supernatural she was unable to determine. However, she thought she would venture to ask the old woman, if there were any

apartments contigious to the one she occupied. "Why" asked the old woman. " Nothing," answered Clarissa, " only I thought there were other rooms inhab'ted." "There are rooms," said the old woman, " but they are unoccupied, and no one can obtain access to them without my permission. I fear child," continued she, " those foolish boys have again disturbed you with their mirth last night." "No," said Clarissa, turning from her and looking out of the casement ; she then saw several men pass hastily along the piazza, and instantly drew back and seated herself upon the sofa, where she continued absorbed in painful meditation.

The night had again far advanced ; the lamp shone dim upon the table, and a gloomy silence reigned through the convent ; when suddenly she was aroused from her reverie, by a heavy moaning, followed by a deep groan from the room below. She started upon her feet, " Merciful God," she exclaimed, stretching her ears in the direction of the sound, when a second completed her terror ; she staggered to the bed, and sunk down upon it, ready to faint. Her fears were much increased by a sound as if it were the creaking of her chamber floor ; she cast her eyes hastily in that direction, but the faint glimmer of the lamp, threw a gloomy obscurity around, and prevented her from distinguishing the precise part from whence it arose ; she, however, gazed intensely, while her limbs shook violently—her lips quivered, until quite exhausted,

she was obliged to avert her gaze. She then endeavoured to compose herself to sleep, but her throbbing temples rendered the effort vain ; strange imaginations occupied her thoughts, and she again looked fearfully towards the spot where she had first heard the sound, when she thought a grim shade moved slowly in the direction of the window. She uttered a loud shriek, and covered her head in the bed clothes, where she remained sweating with terror, until the light of day, in some measure, relieved her fears. She arose and threw her eyes hastily around the chamber, but all appeared in its usual state ; she then looked out at the casement, the light was stealing along the arches, and all was silent, save the hollow sound of the bittern perched on the neighbouring trees. She turned from thence, sighed deeply, and casting her eyes downwards, her attention was arrested by something lying upon the floor ; she took it up, and upon examining it found it to be a bit of leather, apparently taken from the lining of a shoe ; but, what was her astonishment, when on the one side of which she observed the following lines, wrote with a burnt stick.

" Distressed lady, be not surprised at these lines, nor the mode used in conveying them to your apartment, they are from a fellow sufferer confined within these ruins, for many years, by the treachery of a ruffian, who wears the garb of righteousness ; and I have every reason to believe that the same monster is the cause of your incarceration and distress. Your

sighs, dear lady, have more than once reached my ear, and moved me to the resolution of adopting this mode, in order to inform you of your danger, and guard you against the wicked designs of the monk; who only seeks to satiate his brutal lust, and then consign you to the horrid assaults of a furious gang of highwaymen, who inhabit these ruins. Then, dearest mortal, whoever you be, resist, with your life, every attempt that may be made on your virtue; and, remember you have a fellow sufferer near you, who has borne affliction year after year, and who would die rather than suffer this wretch to consummate his purpose. Follow then, I entreat you, my example; and, should no providential hand ever be extended to our deliverance, let us die in the sacred truth of having prevented the completion of so hideous a crime."

LABINA FRONTEIRA.

The surprise which seized the soul of Clarissa, when she had examined the contents of this billet, can in no way be conceived, but by a person equally distressed like herself; and, as soon as she could recall her spirits from that absence of mind in which the first emotions of amazement had involved her, she turned her attention to the place where she had first taken up the billet, and found that it had been ingeniously forced through a crevice of the floor, and thus accounted for the noise she had heard, and which had so much alarmed her on the preceeding night. The discovery produced an inconceivable degree of anguish; not

only on account of her own alarming circumstances, but also on account of the other poor captive, who had so long suffered cruel and inhuman treatment from this perfidious wretch. These thoughts, and the evils she feared would befall herself, made her heart ready to break ; she wept and prayed that some kind turn of fate, might disclose the villainous practices of these abandoned wretches. She did not entertain the smallest hope that her father, who she doubted not would exert every effort, could ever trace her to such an obscure and dreary ruin ; and the more she dwelt upon this subject, the greater was her despondency. She gave herself up as irrecoverably lost and undone ; misery, in all its chilling horrors, obscured every thought ; and in this dejected state she continued until the shades of night again enveloped her.

The keenness of the night air, however, obliged her to retire from the casement, and seating herself upon the sofa, pale and languid, rested her head upon her hand ; and, in the dim light shed by the solitary lamp that burned upon the table, looked more like a spectre than a natural being. Not a sound, save the occasional moanings of the wind, disturbed the solemnity of her prison, when, suddenly, she heard footsteps stealing softly along the gallery ; the clinking of keys announced the approach of some person to her chamber ; her heart trembled, and ere she had time to compose herself, the monk entered. "Well, Clarissa," said he, "have you considered on what I have said, or do you

still persevere in obstinacy." "Yes," answered she, "my resolution holds firm." "You talk as if you could restrain me," he resumed, "but I have power to inflict worse treatment than that which you at present experience, if you persist to refuse;" she, however, showed a strength of mind, and unshaken constancy, infinitely beyond what could be expected from her years, and replying to what he said, with a dauntless fortitude and noble boldness, told him, "That he might use his menaces, and exercise his perfidious arts, but that she would never yield her virtue on any other terms than the sacrifice of her own life." "What," said he, fixing a searching glance upon her countenance, "and do really mean what you say; reflect, dear lady, and consider that you are now within my power." "I know it too well," replied Clarissa, "and the shame is with yourself, in having, by wicked and unlawful means, kidnapped me from home, and the protection of my parents; but, oh! beware of your crime, look seriously into the vice you contemplate; let the afflicted bosoms of my injured parents alone melt you into pity, and abandon your resolution; remember too, there is an all-searching eye in the heavens, from whom you cannot hide the evil your soul contemplates. Oh! then let me intreat you, for the love of heaven, for the sake of that blessed saint whose garb you wear, desist from your purpose, and pray for forgiveness." "Pray," sneered the monk, ironically, "'tis nonsence, thy gentle presence, thy blest society alone can soothe me to peace, and cool my burning

soul; you will consent, you will no longer remain obstinate. Let then this kiss, this fond embrace." "Hold, unhand me, sir," cried Clarissa, as he threw his arms around her, and endeavoured to press his lips to hers—"I must—I will." She shrieked, and struggled in his grasp. "Nay," exclaimed the villain, "you seek to resist me in vain."

At that instant the door was thrown open, "Hold monster, villain," exclaimed an infurated voice from behind, and immediately plunged his sword to the hilt in the body of the monk. Clarissa, at this moment of distraction, threw her eyes upon her deliverer, when the well known features were instantly recognized, and she cried "O! Henrique, my brother" and fell fainting into his arms. The room was presently filled with soldiers; among them came poor old Sampi, who hastening to the assistance of his dear young mistress, made a plunge at the monk with his dirk, and wept for joy at having again discovered her. Henrique held the inanimate body of Clarissa to his agitated bosom, and pressed his lips upon her cold and pale cheek- "Oh God, my sister," cried he, applying some restoratives, and by his assiduous care, she was soon restored to consciousness, but was so weak, that she was unable to move without the assistance of Henrique. He supported her in his arms to the gallery, and from thence, with the help of Sampi, they reached the large hall, which the ruffians had fled from on the first approach of the soldiers. Here Henrique took

from his pocket a small flask, and requested that Clarissa would take a draught of wine, in order to recruit her spirits; as he informed her they must of necessity immediately quit the ruin; Clarissa hung upon his neck, and bathing his cheek with tears, said, "oh! Henrique, there is yet another unfortunate sufferer." "Where," said he, starting resolutely; fixing his eyes upon the old hag, whom the soldiers had brought into the hall, and then placing Clarissa under the protection of the soldiers, directed the old wretch instantly to lead the way; who, fearing a refusal would endanger her life, immediately obeyed the mandate.

She conducted them along several dark and dreary passages, until at length they arrived at the door of a loathsome vault; this she opened, and they ascended some stone steps to a narrow passage, along which they proceeded towards a small chamber, where a solitary lamp burned upon the table. A deep moan of anguish now distinctly reached their ears, and turning to the left they entered another cell; when, good God! what was their astonishment on discovering a ghastly figure, seated in the remotest corner of the room. A single, solitary, lonely woman, whose haggard looks and hollow eyes denoted the long continued cruelty of her inhuman oppressor. Henrique stood aghast, and shrunk appalled. She started, surprised at the sight of strangers, and gazing wildly upon the uniform of Henrique, drew back with terror. But Henrique

stepping forward, said, "Madam, fear not, we are come to release you from the state of misery in which you have so long continued, arise and depart with us." "Oh, sir," cried she, "is it possible," bursting into tears, and uttering a convulsive groan, as if ready to faint at the intelligence. When Henrique, perceiving the wandering of her mind, took her tenderly by the arm, and supported her feeble body to the hall. A general sensation of horror evinced itself amongst all present, as this object of commiseration entered leaning upon the arm of Henrique. Indeed, she looked more like one arrayed in her shroud than a living woman; many of the soldiers shuddered as though she had been actually raised from the dead. However, at the expiration of a short time, the two ladies were in some measure composed, and Henrique arranged to leave as speedily as possible, the horrible scene of treachery and injustice. All things being ready, they arose and proceeded along the passage to the outer door, which they opened and, immediately entered the forest; the pure atmosphere the two ladies inhaled as a luxury which they had never again expected to enjoy.

The moon shone clear as they hurried on between the trees, but the intricacy of the road much impeded their progress. After great fatigue they reached a solitary house, where Henrique, on perceiving the exhausted state of the ladies, demanded admittance, The host, however, was some time before he would open to them the door, being greatly alarmed at the approach

of strangers at such a late hour ; and, in consequence, Henrique had more than once to repeat his demand before he would venture to put his head out at the casement ; when perceiving the glittering arms of the soldiers, he immediately gave them permission to enter. Here Henrique procured a vehicle, and after the lades had partaken of some refreshment, they again pursued their journey. The forest was dense and rugged, but when they gained the open heath, they were enabled to proceed with greater rapidity.

The high towers of the castle of Obidas soon appeared, when the heart of Clarissa beat violently as they came in view of the mansion ; tears of joy trickled down her cheeks, and she longed to embrace her afflicted parents. They entered the avenue, and soon reached the outer court, when immediately ringing the bell at the gate it resounded through the mansion ; presently lights were seen approaching the court, and ere the servants had time to inquire who was there, Sampi cried out, " 'Tis my dear young mistress, open the gates." As soon as the servants heard this good news, they hastened back to the mansion, and spread the intelligence. A general stir was soon in the house, and amidst the confusion of voices was distinguished those of Domingos and Maria, who flew to the court, and with open arms received their lost daughter. All seemed to question her with earnestness and affection ; but on Henrique introducing the other female, they were actually transfixed with a-

stonishment; from which they were only relieved by Henrique giving a brief statement of the circumstances connected with her long confinement in the ruins of Amixuiera, through the treachery of the monk, and her subsequent release with Clarissa. All seemed deeply affected with the account, particularly Maria, whose mind was ever susceptible of the tenderest feelings, and extending her hand assisted the poor lady to a seat.

Domingos and captain Delgado, expressed a desire to hear from Clarissa, the particulars of her own misfortunes. She accordingly entered into a full exposition of the whole circumstances, from the time of her being kidnapped from the mansion; the surprise and disgust which was manifested by all, as she continued her relation, would be impossible to describe. The venerable features of the captain were frequently distorted with indignation and horror; while those of Domingos were a compound of grief and joy. But when she came to that part of her narrative where Henrique so nobly effected their enlargement, they all expressed themselves in terms of the highest admiration. Henrique said, that he had been fortunately ordered to march from the metropolis, a few days ago, with a small detachment of troops, into that part of the forest, in order, if possible, to surprise and take a formidable gang of robbers, who had of late committed many daring outrages upon the unwary traveller passing those parts; but, in reference

to the present case, he, with that generosity of spirit so compatible with his general deportment, disclaimed all merit; and said, that ther discovery of the ladies, might be wholly attributed to the indefatigable exertions of Sampi.

After Sampi had made the most dilligent search in all the surrounding hamlets, he entered the forest, and pursuing his solitary way over the rugged heath uncertain of the route he was taking; he became weary with travelling, and the night rapidly advancing, he had no other alternative than to take up his abode under some thick and spreading bushes. When he had made himself as secure as he could from the attack of wolves, he laid himself down, but was soon aroused by a shower of rain, which came on with such violence as to oblige him to crouch as closely as possible under the most sheltered part of the trees. While in this situation, he heard the sound of footsteps, evidently approaching the spot where he was; and in this he was not mistaken, for, in a short time, several men hurried under the adjoining trees for shelter.

The night had closed in more than usually dark, owing to the weather; and thus, fortunately, hid him from their view; nevertheless, he was somewhat alarmed, and with trembling agitation listened to the following conversation: "Come Bento," said one of them, "give here thy sponge and flint, for I must even light my cigar." "Aye,' said another, "and I too,

for the shower will not be over presently," "I wish," said another, "that we were snugly seated in the convent." "Aye," returned Bento, "as snug as father Manoel, with the fair Clarissa, sweetly solacing himself in her arms; but I say, Sebastiao, how devilishly surprised she was when she found herself in the convent." "Yes," said the first speaker, "and I fancy she will be in a still greater surprise ere she has done with us all, though I must confess she is worthy to be the queen of the forest." "Thou mayest say that, Sebastiao," said Bento, "but hadst thou beheld her bewitching form as it lay extended in my arms, in the vehicle, as we brought her to the convent, thou wouldst have envied the monk as I do." "Why, for the matter of that," returned Sebastiao, "I had a sneaking desire for the girl; but the old boy seemed as fierce as a forest rat, and would allow of no edging in; so I thought as a rich dish generally gluts the stomach, there would be enough left for us all; but come, the shower has somewhat abated, let us proceed, the monk will long ere this have reached the convent."

They then pursued their way; and Sampi stealing from the place of his confinement, followed them at a distance, until they arrived at the convent, where he observed them enter the private door. He stepped softly up, and placing a mark that he might know it again, immediately returned in order to inform Domingos of the discovery. On his way he was met

by some of my men who were on the look-out, and taking him to be one of the robbers, they conveyed him to me. You may imagine my surprise when I found the prisoner to be Sampi; but, when he related to me the distressing occurrence, no language could describe the state of my feelings. I immediately ordered the soldiers to march to the convent, which, by the direction of Sampi, we soon reached; and forcing the door, made the timely rescue of my dear sister, and this unfortunate lady. Domingos embraced Sampi in the most grateful manner, and said that he should be amply rewarded for his faithful, affectionate, and successful exertions; aided, as he had no doubt been, by divine interposition, in bringing to light this nefarious business. The poor lady also returned her grateful acknowledgements, and was about to give some account of her own misfortunes; but the captain remarking the late hour, and observing the weak state of the lady, advised that all should retire to rest, and on the morrow they would feel obliged by her relating the circumstances which had led to her misfortunes.

It was late the next morning when the family assembled in the saloon. Henrique and Clarissa had previously stolen to the garden, in order to revive those pleasures they were wont to enjoy; the serenity of the morning, added to the pleasures they felt in each other's society, they entered into a long and interesting conversation on all the incidental occurrences which had happened since their separation; and, although

Henrique was some time absorbed in the most melancholy reflections on the crimes of man, they ultimately regained their accustomed tranquillity, and returned to the mansion highly pleased with their morning walk. On entering the room they found, in addition to the family, Don Joze and his lady, who had just arrived from Caldas; the latter congratulated Clarissa with such affectionate feeling, as to raise the tears in her eyes, while Clarissa could scarcely speak to thank her for her sympathy; they, however, soon recovered their usual composure, and all sat down to breakfast with mutual cheerfulness. As soon as the repast was ended, the whole company felt a desire to hear the poor lady's relation of her misfortunes; and, therefore, after a few preliminary remarks, she thus began.

In my childhood, and some time after my marriage with the Conde de Fronteira, I resided with my mother at La Sierra, on the river Cabriel, in Spain. She was the only parent I ever had the good fortune to know, as my father died in a distant country, previous to my birth. His name, and the cause of his death, was, however, preserved by my mother, in the most profound secrecy. Nothing could ever induce her to reveal them, although the circumstances seemed deeply to press on her spirits, and absorb her thoughts. Many and frequent were the solicitations of her friends to join the fashionable circles of the city; but, to all their intreaties, she turned a deaf ear, and choose rather to reside in the most retired seclusion, in order

that she might contemplate, in privacy, the favourite object of her mental affliction; and thus the tears would frequently gush from her eyes, as she pressed my prattling lips to hers, to evade many inquisitive interrogatories; and then with a smile that bespoke her unbounded affection, consign me to the care of my maid. As my years advanced, she became more composed, and devoted the whole of her attention to my improvement; no means were spared to render me proficient in my studies, and I was glad to find my mother's spirits greatly improve.

We were sometimes visited by the Fronteira family, who resided at a short distance from our mansion; and it was thus that I became acquainted with the Conde, to whom I was afterwards married. He had just entered the army; and, consequently, we proceeded to Madrid, where, after the usual time, I gave birth to a daughter, which considerably increased our felicity; but, during my pregnancy of the second child, my health was so much impaired, as greatly to alarm my husband and friends. My physician ordered a change of air, and I again returned to the mansion of my mother, when I was shortly afterwards delivered of a boy. The most delicate care and attention was paid to the recovery of my health, but without any symptoms of improvement; and my mother at length determined to remove me to the country seat of her father. Accordingly, after the necessary arrangements were made, we set out and soon reached the mansion

of the Conde de Castello. "Where?" hastily inquired captain Delgado, who seemed to devour her with attention, "The Conde de Castello's, sir," answered the Condessa. "The Conde de Castello," reiterated the captain, while his countenance underwent a sudden change. "And what was the name of your mother, madam?" "Eladia Verde, sir," replied she. "Merciful God," he cried, hastily rising from his seat—he flew to her—he pressed her to his bosom. He strove to speak, but speech was for some time denied. He wept aloud, and at length words found their way in broken exclamations, "My daughter! My child! welcome, thrice welcome to my arms." The scene at this moment was most affecting. A general surprise seized every one present, but more particularly the Condessa, who was thunderstruck with astonishment. She looked as one gasping for breath, in the most confused amaze; her eyes fixed upon her father, with a wild and uncertain glance, until nature gave way, and she fell weeping upon the neck of her father.

Maria, and the amiable lady of Don Joze, as also the whole company, used every exertion to restore them to composure; which, after a time, they accomplished. The captain then made some brief inquiries respecting the Diana. The Condessa informed him that the ship in which her mother returned from South America, having put in at the island of Tercera, she embarked in another vessel for Spain; and thus providentially

escaped a watery grave, as the ship on the remainder of its passage was lost, and all on board perished. Her mother had from that time, as she had before stated, resided in Spain, where she left her quite well, when she had the misfortune to leave that country. The captain directed that a messenger should be immediatly dispatched to Spain, in order to make inquires after his long lost wife; and, if living, to acquaint her with the present circumstances. Young Delfino offered to go on this service, and immediately prepared for his journey. After a short conversation, the Condessa was requested to resume her narrative.

I remained, said she, under the roof of my mother's father for some time, without making any visible progress towards convalescence, and I was recommended to try the baths of Artego, in the province of Galicia. The tonic powers of these waters soon restored my health; and at the expiration of two months, I received a letter from my husband, to join him at Cadiz, where his regiment had just arrived. In order to fulfil this command, I set out for Corunna, where I embarked in a small vessel for that place; I was the only passenger on board the Alcala, which was the name of the vessel. We weighed anchor in the afternoon of the fourth of June, and, by the close of night, had reached a considerable distance from the shore. It was a fine moonlight night. I stood on the deck and gazed on the quiet ocean, on which the moon beams

danced; the wind was so still, that it scarcely agitated the sails, which were spread out to invite it. I looked round, it was the same on every side—a world of waters—not a single object diversified the view, or intercepted the long and steady glance which I threw over the ocean. Indeed, I gazed without weariness on the deep, occupied with the thought it produces, I listened to the beating of the element as the vessel clave it, and found charms even in the ripple by the side of the vessel.

As the night drew on, I retired to rest, and dropped asleep; but it was not that refreshing sleep which recruits the exhausted spirits. My sleep was haunted with confused and hideous dreams,—the most frightful dangers seemed to surround me. I was awakened by convulsive starts, and in vain sought again for quiet slumber; the same images filled my mind, diversified in a thousand horrid forms. Early in the morning I arose, the vessel was heaving more than she had done since I had been on board of her. I went on deck; there was every appearance of a coming storm. The crew, which consisted of the captain, mate, and two men, were busy in taking in the ship's sails, and making preparations for the storm. During the afternoon the gale increased; and towards evening it blew a perfect hurricane, accompanied with thunder and lightning. The ship was hove to under bare poles; finding it was impossible that the vessel could lie to any longer, all hands were called aft, as it was

determined, for the preservation of the vessel, to cut away the mainmast, and scud before the wind. During this time I remained in the small cabin with my child; my situation was most lamentable; the waters rushing in with every sea that broke over the ship; the thunder claps were most terrific; and the lightning was particularly vivid. About midnight the captain going forward discovered breakers ahead, and instantly called out to put the helm hard a starboard, but before the ship could wear, she struck upon the east end of the rocks called the borlings. The shock was dreadful; I endeavoured to rush from the cabin, but was prevented by the captain. The second sea hove the ship along side of the rocks. The wind blew with redoubled fury, and the waves rolled with tremendous violence, which caused the ship to labour so excessively, that they were not able to stand upon deck; and the night was so thick and dark, that, though they were but a short distance from the shore, they could not see it. All that man could do, the captain did to encourage the men to exertion, but they seemed completely paralyzed; and the sea breaking over the vessel, occasioned her to roll so prodigiously that at one jerk her other mast went by the board, carry with them the captain and the two seamen. Our situation was now desperate, amid the terrors of the storm, and the roarings of the ocean, that threatened every instant to engulph us; there remained on the wreck only the mate, myself, and child, which I held close to my bosom unconscious of its danger. I will

not attempt to describe the torturing feelings which possessed me, on beholding the innocent smiles of my child, which I every moment expected to be struggling with the raging billows; however, at daylight the wind had somewhat moderated, and we found the vessel close in shore, which gave us some hopes of saving ourselves. We could see nobody on shore, and the mate began to construct a raft out of such parts of the wreck, as he could procure. As soon as this frail means of deliverance was finished, I prepared to depart, while I trembled at the thought of the dangers I was about to encounter. I made my child fast to my body, and breathing a trembling prayer to God, descended to the raft. The mate secured me on the raft as well as he could, and putting off from the wreck, we made towards the shore; but the swell of the sea forcing the raft with great violence into the surf, the mate unfortunately lost his hold, and was instantly swept into the sea. The raft, however, by the next wave was thrown on the beach, and I with difficulty crawled with my child out the reach of the water. I was dreadfully sick, and my lovely babe almost unconscious, by the buffettings of the waves, and by being so long immersed in the water. I seated myself upon a stone, and after some time recovered myself.

I then took my child, and looking about observed a monk issue from an opening in the rocks, a few paces from where I had been seated. He seemed

deeply affected at the sight of the distressing occurrence; and offering me his services, said, he would conduct me to a place of safety. I thanked the holy father, and accordingly proceeded with him along the beach, and then by a circular route gained the summit of the cliffs. We then descended by a footpath which led us to the forest, and at length reached an old monastery. At the sight of this ruin, I felt a sensation of terror, several of the pillars which had once supported the roof remained, the proud remains of sinking greatness; and seemed to nod at every murmur of the blast over the fragments of those that had fallen a little before them. The lofty battlements thickly enwreathed with ivy, were demolished, and had become the residence of birds of prey. The main entrance was by a gothic gate, richly ornamented with carved work, which led into the body of the edifice. We entered what appeared to have been the chapel of the monastery, and from thence we proceeded to a large apartment. This room seemed co-equal with the building in a state of dilapidation; it nevertheless contained a few articles of furniture, and adjoining thereto was a small bed chamber, into which the monk requested I would retire with my child, in order to remove our wet clothes, and take some repose. As I was exceedingly exhausted, and much in want of repose, I slept soundly for some hours, and when I awoke my strength was greatly renovated. I then arose and dressed myself and child, (for our clothes during the time had got perfectly dry,) and returned to the

large apartment. There was no one there, but a table was spread with provisions. I listened deeply influenced by mingled feelings of astonishment and awe.

I was about to proceed to the outer door, when I heard some one approaching, it was the monk. He saluted me with great civility, and hoped I was much recovered. He then requested I would partake of some refreshment; and entered into a long interrogation respecting my family, and the circumstances of the wreck. I perceived that he took a peculiar interest in the recital, his features underwent sudden and various changes which I conceived arose from feelings of sympathy, but in this I was mistaken; for he soon assumed a more delicate position, and drawing close to me avowed his passion. I shrunk from him with horror, and resisted his advances with the utmost indignation; but he became more importunate, and stretching out his arms, said, "Sole possessor of my love, thus in my arms let me enfold thee." I arose to depart, but he flew to the door and prevented my exit. I implored he would desist. "No, no," said he, resolutely, "thou shalt henceforward reside with me, and beware, I caution thee; mind that thou dost not arouse me, or thou mayest repent it." I could scarcely believe the evidence of my senses, and I trembled with fear.

At this moment several ill looking men entered the

apartment, they scrutinized me, and in derision made several unseeming observations, after which they withdrew, accompanied by the monk who secured the door after him. It would be impossible to describe the violence of my feelings at finding myself thus confined, in what I conceived to be a receptacle for a lawless gang of ruffians, into whose hands I had unfortunately fallen. My distress considerably augmented as the night approached, in which state of distraction I remained until near midnight; when I heard a confusion of voices, and presently the monk again entered the apartment bearing in his hand a small lamp. He was muffled in a large cloak, and in his girdle was placed a brace of pistols; the sight of which petrified me with horror. I stood like a statute, and gazed with amazement, when he requested that I would immediately prepare to accompany him, as that was no place for my residence. I begged, I entreated, but he was deaf to my supplications; and resolutely forcing me and my child from the apartment, hurried us along the forest until we reached the most dense part af it; when suddenly he wrenched my infant from my arms, and laying it down under a tree, said, "there was no necessity to be burdened with the child." I shrieked and struggled for my child, but he forcibly dragged me forward, and compelled me to proceed until we reached the convent of Amixuiera; where I was immured in a small apartment. The agonizing thoughts of my poor child, drove me almost into a state of delirium; nevertheless, I was subject to daily annoy-

ances from this vile wretch ; who, finding that I continued impenetrable to his hateful advances, had me confined in a solitary apartment for the remainder of my life. In this apartment, after a series of years spent in misery and deprivation, I was providentially discovered, and liberated, by the noble young gentleman present ; to whom I am so much indebted ; and whom I shall ever regard with the highest esteem and gratitude.

At the close of her narrative, Domingos hastily arose, and addressing her, said, "My dear lady, I have listened to the account of your adventures, under the keenest feelings, and deep commiseration for your sufferings, and just indignation at their cause ; but, thank God, although I have heard some things that grieve me, and others that yield me great pleasure ; yet, under the providence of heaven, the sorrows are dispelled, and the joys remain.—Your son, my dear lady, yet lives." "Lives," exclaimed the Condessa, in frantic agitation. "Yes, madam," returned Domingos, "behold him here, in the youth who affected your deliverance," presenting Henrique. She could hear no more, her eyes started, her lipes quivered, her face turned deadly pale, and she fell fainting in the chair ; while Henrique on the other hand, gazed as one paralysed with amazement. As soon as the Condessa was again restored to consciousness, Domingos recounted the whole of the circumstances of finding Henrique in the wood, and his adoption of him. Maria produced the cloak in

which he was wrapped, and the locket found in his bosom. The Condessa hastily threw her eyes upon the locket, and said, "It is the same, with the cypher of Fronteria; but, my child had a mark on the left breast. On hearing this, Henrique unbared his bosom, when the Condessa instantly sprang forward, exclaming, "'Tis enough, my child! oh God, my son! and unable to utter another word; she fell upon his neck, and pressed him to her maternal bosom. The moment was deeply affecting, the tears streamed from the eyes of Henrique, as he held to his heating heart his new found parent. They were suffered in some measure to exhaust their feelings, when the captain, with a smile of satisfaction resting upon his countenance, arose to embrace and congratulate his grandson; in which all present conjoined; but more especially Clarissa, who seemed overjoyed with the discovery.

It was in the midst of those joyous exultations, that suddenly the gate bell resounded through the mansion, and immediatly captain Miranda was ushered into the apartment. Domingos briefly acquainted him with the various circumstances which had happened in the family since their last meeting. "Ah," said the captain, shaking him heartily by the hand, "did I not tell you, my dear friend, long ago, that the lad was a Delgado; and you see I am as good a prophet as any of the tribes of old," laughing heartily as he severally congratulated them. A lengthened conversation ensued, after which they retired to their respective

apartments, in order to prepare for dinner. The evening was spent in cheerful and entertaining conversation, and several days passed on in the greatest felicity. One evening a carriage drove up to the door of the mansion, and immediately alighted Delfino, who handed out of the vehicle, Eladia, accompanied by the Conde de Fronteira, and his daughter. The meeting between the aged captain and Eladia, was inexpressible; while the mutual joy that issued from the hearts of the Conde and his daughter, were only equalled by the tears that bathed the cheeks of the Condessa, as they pressed her to their affectionate bosoms: and thus the meeting may be described as one brilliant effusion of nature, displayed in all the fullness of the soul.

As soon as the first emotion of their joy had in some measure subsided; the Condessa briefly informed the Conde of all her sufferings, and the unexampled barbarity of the monk. Then taking the hand of Henrique, with a look of the most affectionate tenderness, presented him as her son and deliverer. The Conde received him under feelings of deep emotion, and pressed him tenderly to his bosom. Henrique weeping, regarded these proofs of his affection, and falling upon his knees, said, "Since it has pleased the divine dispenser of events, to develope the mystery that enshrouded my birth, and restored me again to my parents, with the same affluence and dignity which my birth engendered, may I beg my father will grant me

one request, to fill up the measure of my felicity." "Speak, my son, said the Conde ; Henrique, unable to speak, looked towards Clarissa. Her eyes met his ; a sudden blush arose upon their cheeks, and they were both so confused, that it was instantly observed by Domingos, who arose from his seat, and taking Clarissa by the hand, said, "My dear children, I perfectly understand the meaning of those blushes ; arise, Henrique, thou hast already nobly earned my daughter; take her, she is thine, and may the Almighty bless you. Henrique (whose proper name was Don Francisco,) replied not ; he contented himself with pressing Clarissa to his bosom, in the presence of all. The Conde and Condessa immediatly gave their consent to the alliance, and felt happy that the young people had formed their hearts for each other. The company then separated. Henrique and Clarissa entered a private apartment, where they had the blessing, which none but lovers know, of testifying their mutual tenderness, by a thousand vows of inviolable affection. What transported them almost beyond reason, was, that Domingos told them that in a few days their marriage should be solemnized, and thus put it past the power of the whole world to separate them for the future.

On the following morning, Don Joze waited upon the Conde at an early hour, and requested a short conference. He then declared his son Delfino's pretensions for his daughter Anna, stating that he was in-

formed an intimacy had taken place on their journey. The Conde said he could have no objections to the proposition, if it met with the inclination of his daughter ; and, in order to ascertain this, he requested that the Condessa would immediatly communicate with her on the subject ; in the mean while Don Joze remained with the Conde. After the elapse of half an hour, the Condessa returned with an answer agreeable to the wishes of Delfino. It was then finally agreed that the two unions should be celebrated on the same day : and accordingly Don Joze took his leave. in order to make the necessary preparations. The evening preceding their nuptials, the relatives of each family assembled at the mansion ; and as soon as aurora's beams proclaimed the coming day, the avenue leading to the mansion was thronged with rustics, emulous to commend the happy parties. As the morning advanced, the sun burst forth in all his radiant splendour ; and presently the fair Clarissa, resting on the arm of Henrique, accompanied by Delfino and Anna, descended the court. The peasantry then formed in procession, preceded by the most heart-stirring strains of the guitar, and thus moved towards the church at the foot of the rock ; where a number of young maidens had assembled with baskets of flowers, in order to strew their path with the fragrant petals, as they entered the sacred edifice. The marriage ceremony being duly performed, they received the congratulations and blessings of the whole assemblage ; and the mansion of Domingos became for some time

the scene of the greatest hilarity and festivity ; the whole neighbourhood participating in the rejoicings.

The old captain and Eladia lived for some time in the full enjoyment of domestic happiness, in the midst of their family ; and Henrique and Clarissa devoted themselves to a rural life, in the vicinity of Obidas, where they were esteemed by all their neighbours, and blessed with a prosperous family. Domingos and Maria also continued their usual pursuits of doing good among the numerous poor of the district, by whom they were sincerely beloved ; and, after attaining a good old age, dropped into the grave, deeply regretted by all who had the pleasure of their acquaintance.

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